サイボーグ
CYBORG 009

10

Shotaro Ishinomori

CHAPTER 35
UNDERGROUND EMPIRE "HADES"

*Angol Tom and the Khumer people brought Southeast Asian culture to Cambodia before they disappeared in 1432. It's rumored that a gigantic underground tunnel appeared and swallowed the people up. Supposedly, the Khumers make up the population of the underground empire.

*2,000 Vietnamese were trapped and encircled by the French army in July of 1953. With nowhere to run, the Vietnamese escaped, most likely using an underground tunnel.

*Lord Wilkins' "Time and Space Mystery" further chronicles the existence of many underground tunnels.

*Nicholas Constantine (1874-1947), an artist from the Soviet Union traveled to Tibet on a sightseeing and sketching trip. In his report to Lhasa, capital of Tibet, Constantine told of an underground kingdom named "Agalta".

*Doctor M. Drill, an American researcher of Ancient civilizations constructed yet another 'structure theory' around the year 1930. He discovered rocks about 480 kilometers in thickness that contained large sashes of lava. The sashes concealed many interconnecting caves underneath, forming an almost 'sponge-shaped' zone about 240 kilometers thick with an underground waterway. He theorized that the waterway runs all the way through the Earth, connecting to even larger caves throughout the core. Beneath that exists a high concentration of neutrons, forming heavy metals that outweigh anything on the Earth's surface. All of the above rests just 160 kilometers above the Earth's core.

*1920's "Journey to the Center of the Earth" by Michelle Gardner detailed many underground caves.

Some claim that the idea of an 'Underground Empire' is a ridiculous notion. The following evidence shows that underground worlds may not be so absurd after all.

Discourse of large tunnels and underground caves.

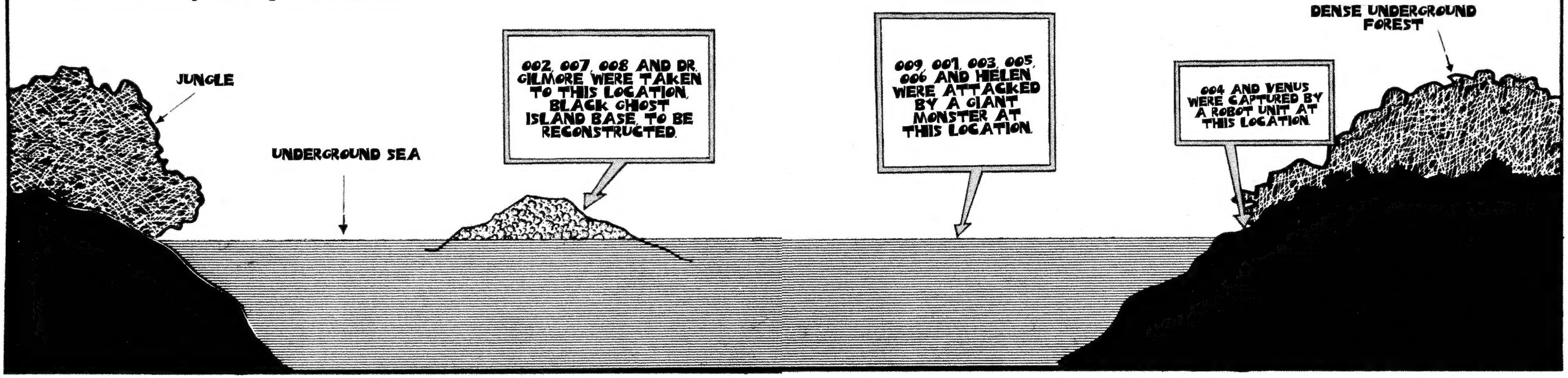
This particular world, Hades, rests 30 kilometers below the surface of the Earth. The capital in the core is a 3470 kilometer section wide surrounded by tons of molten iron fluid. The Earth has a radius of 6400 kilometers from center to surface, and there are small cracks around the globe that offer peeks into this underground world.

*A cave in the Northeastern Central mountainous section of South Africa reveals an underground river flowing through it.

*Robert Van Der Verde, a North American, discovered an enormous underground tunnel at the base of the Yucatan Peninsula, which rests between the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico with a length of 240 kilometers. The locals have never entered and no one knows where the tunnel leads.

*D.G. Lum and a companion wrote of their search for a lost city deep in the mountains near the Guatemalan border. They found yet another large underground tunnel.

*100,000 Mayans suddenly and mysteriously disappeared in Mexico many years ago. It is suspected that they may have ventured into one of the underground tunnels nearby where they were cultivating crops.


JUNGLE
UNDERGROUND SEA
002, 007, 008 AND DR. GILMORE WERE TAKEN TO THIS LOCATION, BLACK GHOST ISLAND BASE, TO BE RECONSTRUCTED.
009, 001, 003, 005, 006 AND HELEN WERE ATTACKED BY A GIANT MONSTER AT THIS LOCATION.
004 AND VENUS WERE CAPTURED BY A ROBOT UNIT AT THIS LOCATION.
DENSE UNDERGROUND FOREST

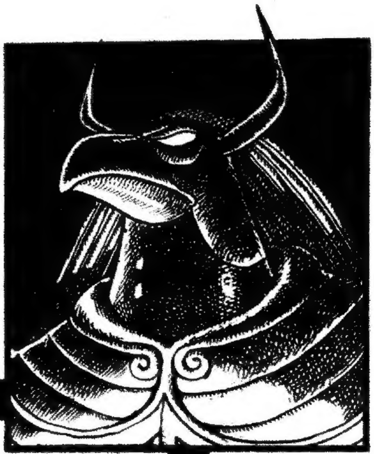
UNDERGROUND EMPIRE "HADES" SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

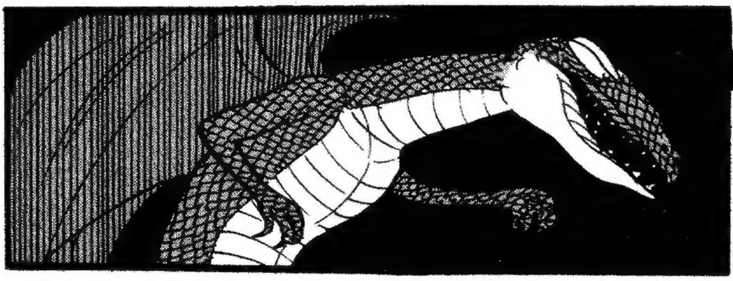
Zartan

Zartan ruled the land with his magnificent powers before Black Ghost's arrival. Ever since, he's lied in wait, plotting his return to to power.

Emperor (Black Ghost)

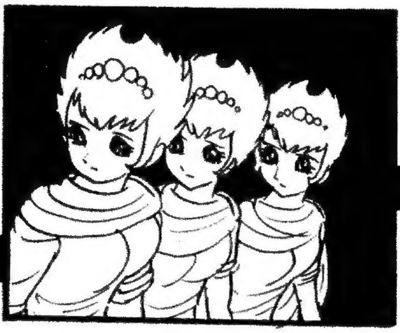
The current ruler of "Hades". In actuality, Black Ghost is the CEO of the Merchants of Death, a large arms manufacturer and dealer, on the surface world.

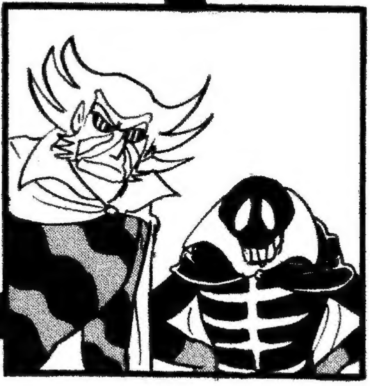




Poor Workers

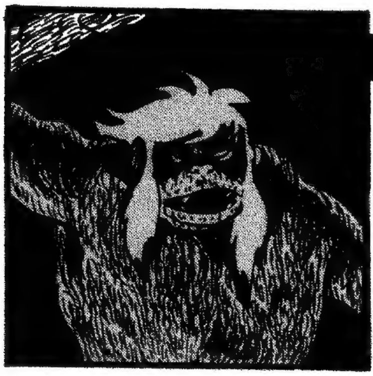
Although similar to most human surface dwellers, these beings were genetically engineered by Zartan to bear many young at once in order to increase the food supply.





The Emperor's Subordinates

Driven solely by money, power and greed, these lackeys have pledged their allegiance to Black Ghost.

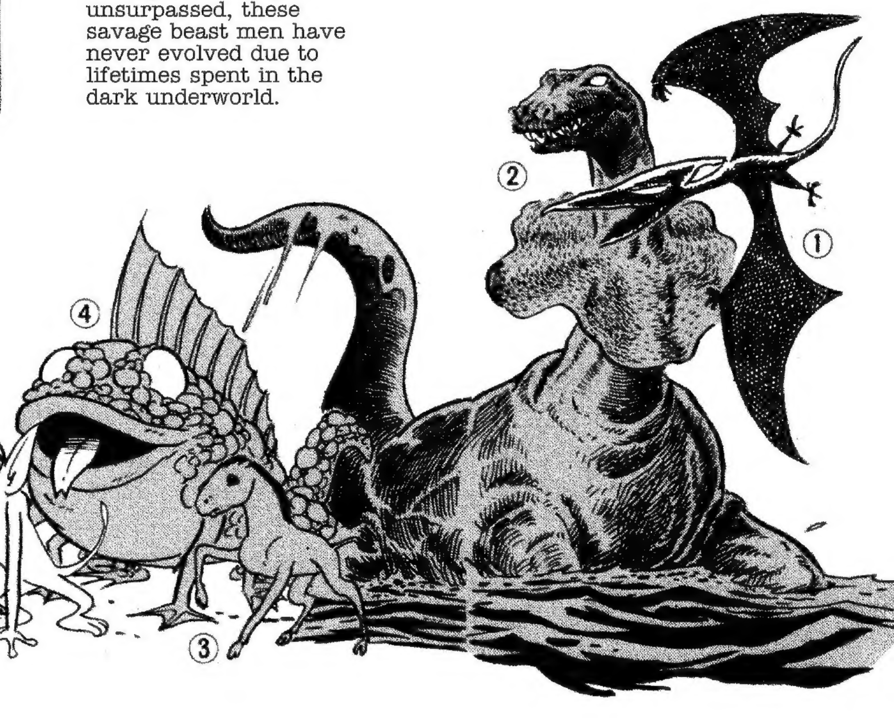


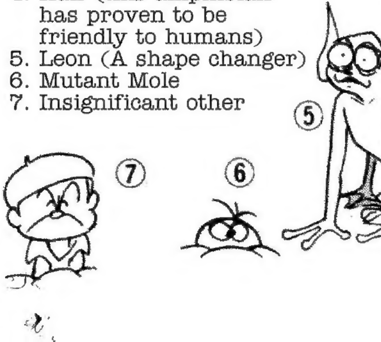
Rutal Primitives

Although their physical strength is nearly unsurpassed, these savage beast men have never evolved due to lifetimes spent in the dark underworld.

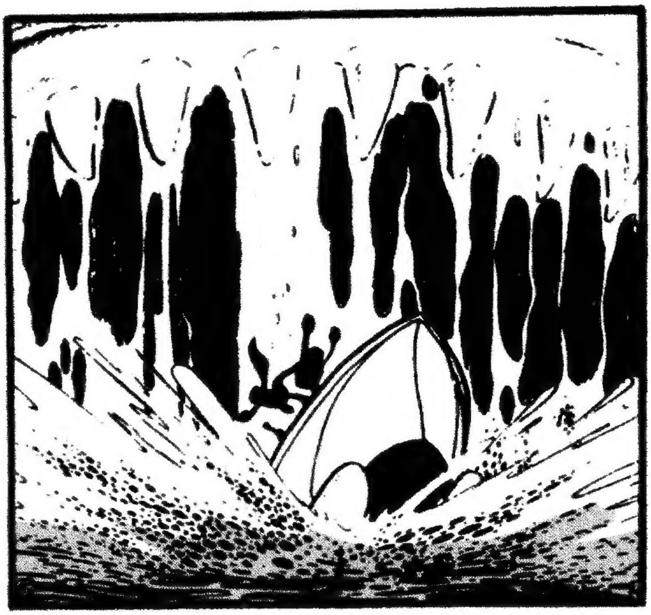
Animals who have appeared thus far.

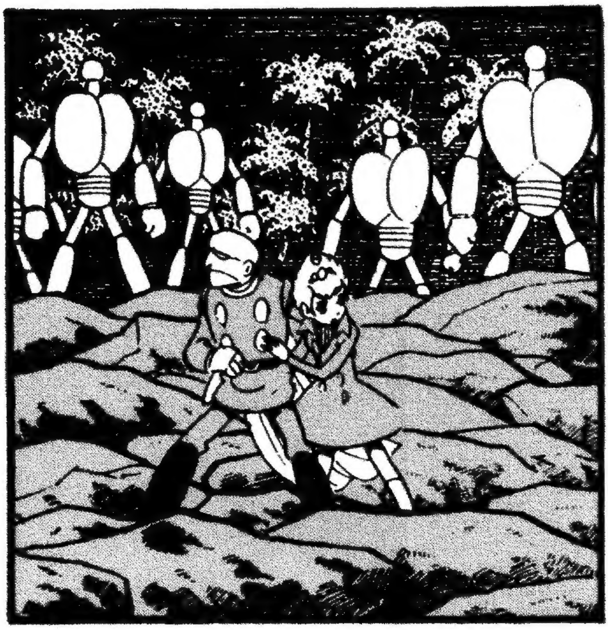
1. Pteranodon
2. Ulus (Ultrasaurus) (to the right of 1 & 2) Named after the ultrasonic waves they emit when they make noise.
3. Eyops (the horse's ancestor)
4. Half (this amphibian has proven to be friendly to humans)
5. Leon (A shape changer)
6. Mutant Mole
7. Insignificant other





A huge monster first appeared in international waters in the summer of 19??, sinking a boat, blowing up an aircraft and toppling a city into the surface of the Earth. Soon, Black Ghost discovered that the creature was actually from "Hades", a vast Underground Empire. Black Ghost found that it was much easier to conquer and rule "Hades" and from there began to hatch his plans to take over the Earth itself. First, Black Ghost unleashed the underground creature and it's ultrasonic powers on other parts of the surface world, creating chaos and confusion.





Then, the evil organization sold the world an anti-ultrasonic wave device that could combat the monster THEY unleashed for an absurd price to the countries of the world.

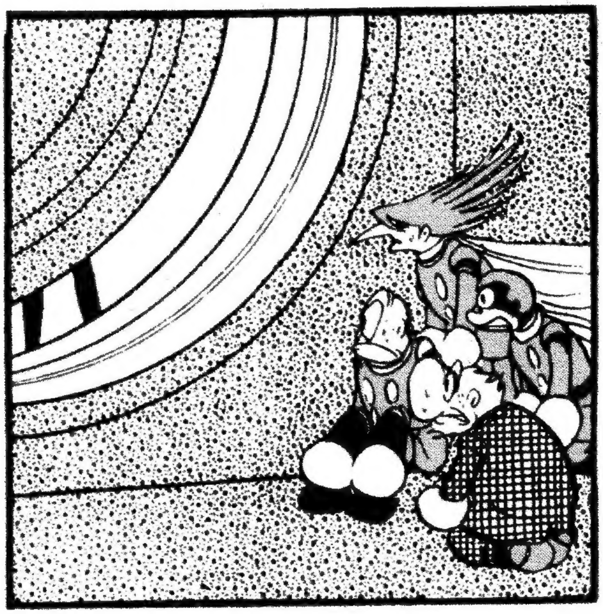
Yet, the machine was a terrible trick. When used, it would release other ultrasonic waves and drive those around it insane. Black Ghost's weapon was clearly a double edged sword. Luckily, Cyborg 009 and his gang arrived!

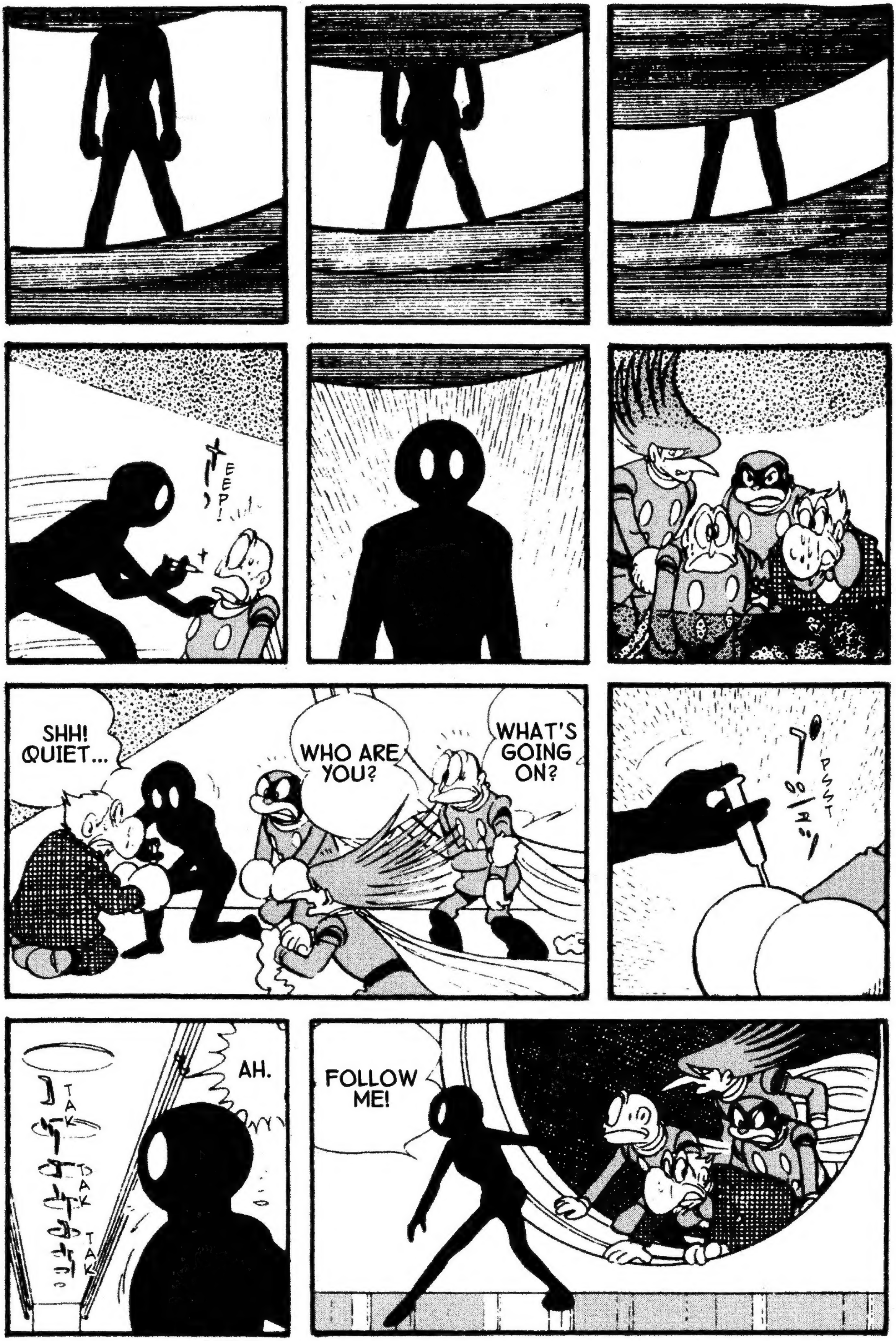
Doctor Gilmore believed Black Ghost manipulated the ultrasonic wave monster and called the zero zero numbered cyborgs together.

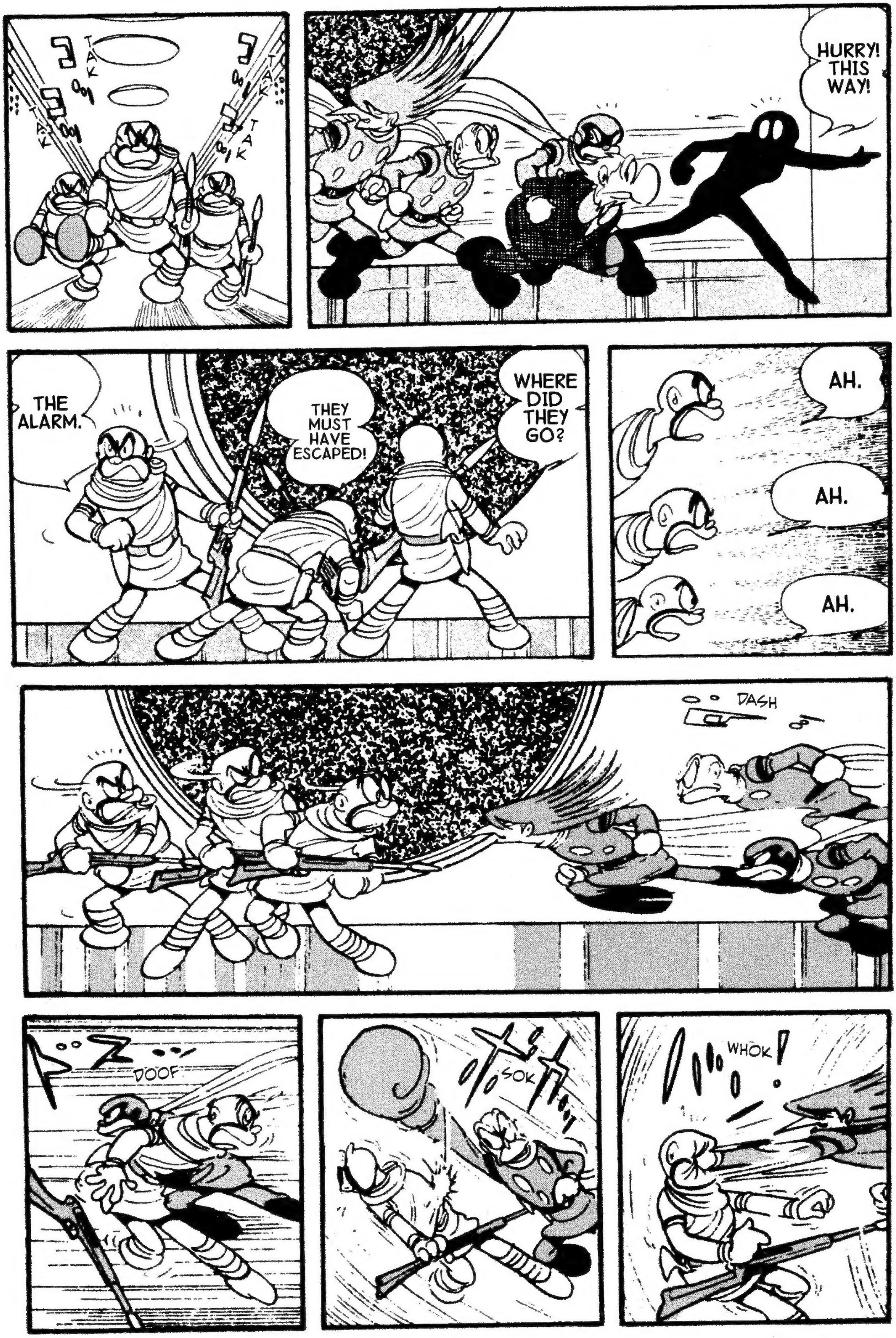
Ironically, Black Ghost was able to sell anti-ultrasonic weaponry to the rest of the world for absurd prices because the threat of the creature was too great.

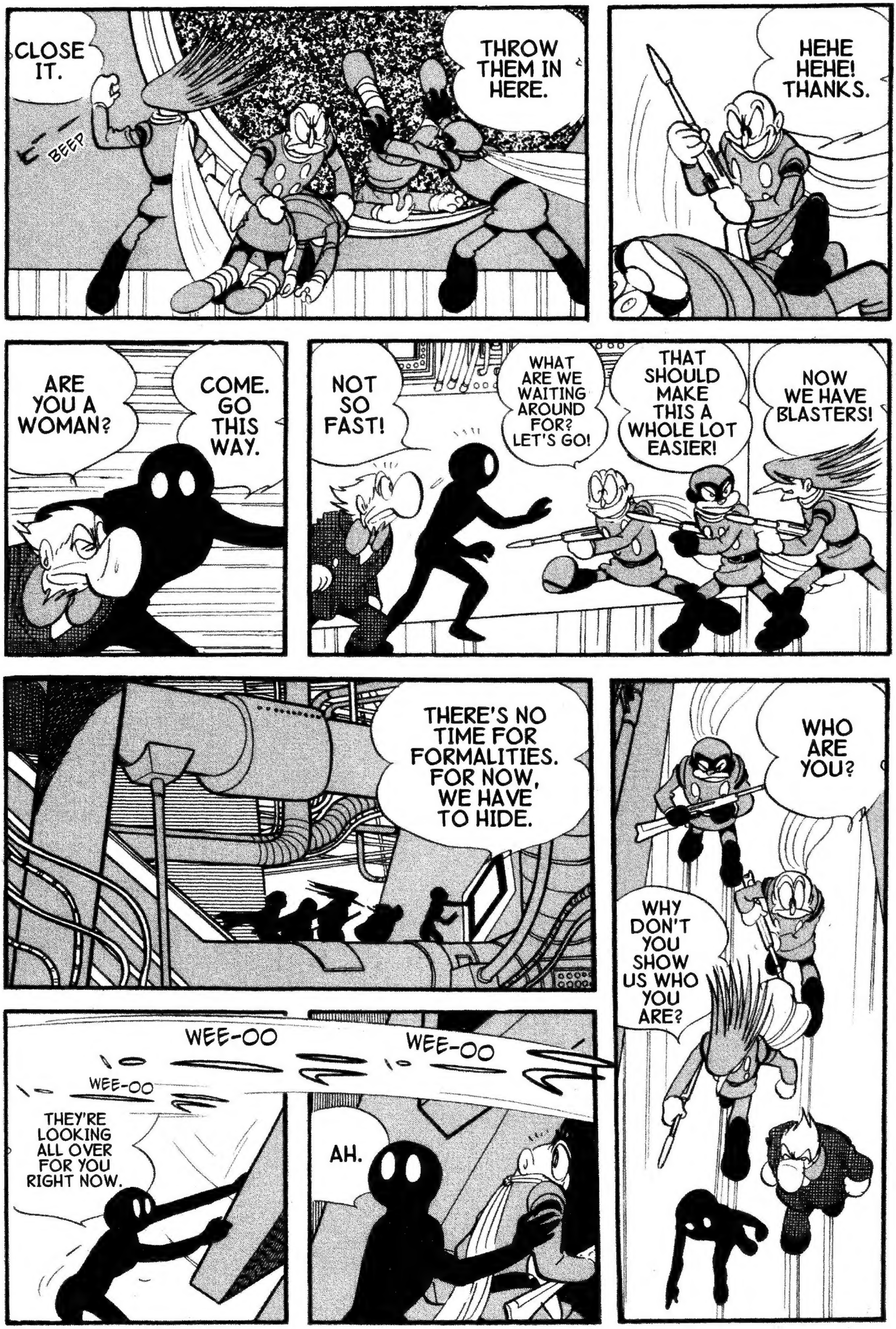
But, it was a mistake on Black Ghost's side. They used Helen from the Underground Empire as a spy to move with the cyborgs. Helen was one of the Underground Empire's poor worker class and also the oldest one of five siblings (quintuplets).

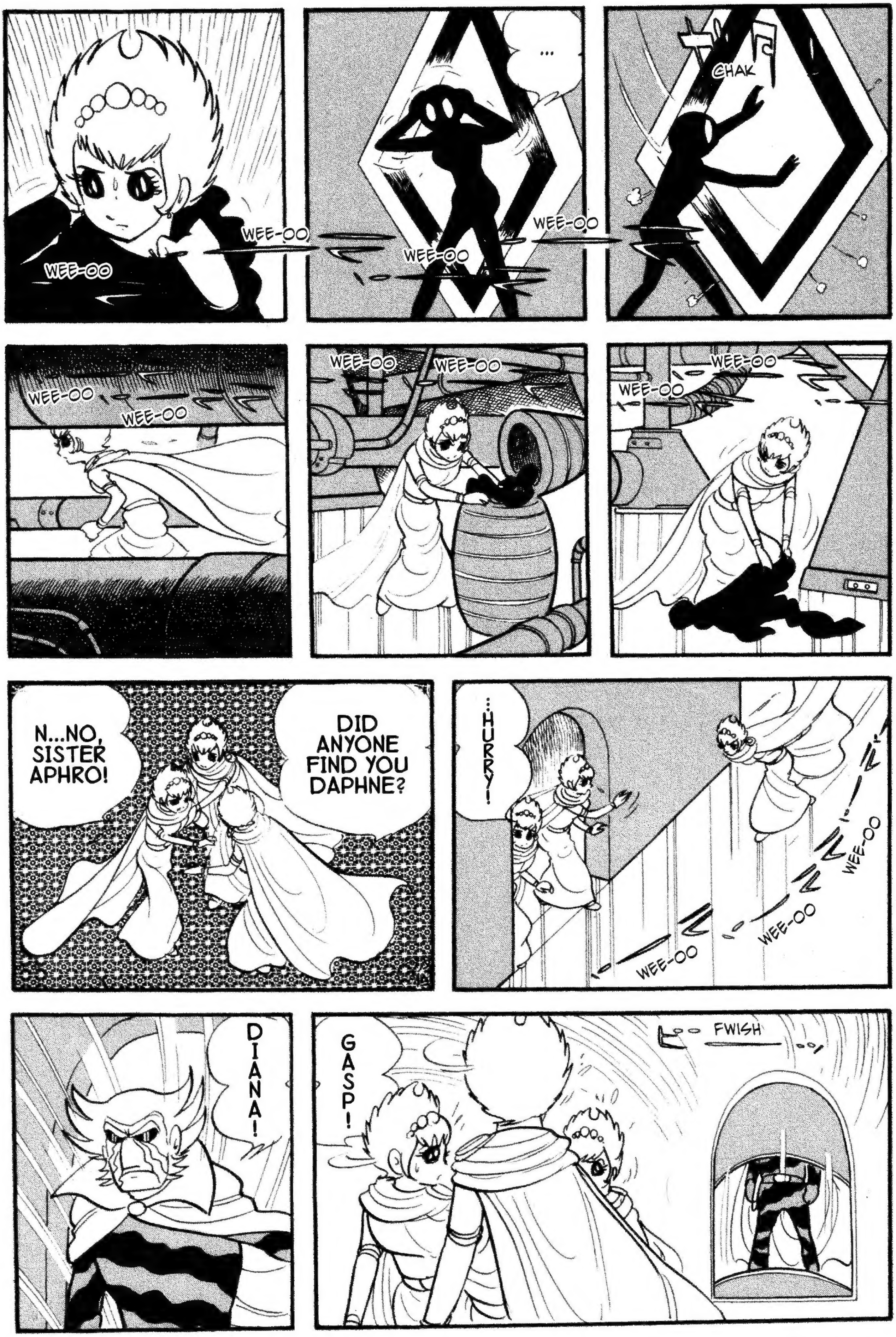
Helen's sisters, Venus, Diana, Aphro, and Daphne were under the control of Van Bogart, a Black Ghost subordinate. Helen and her sisters communicated with each other through a telepathic ability they share within themselves. And now, in "Hades", the cyborgs have gotten themselves into a pinch.

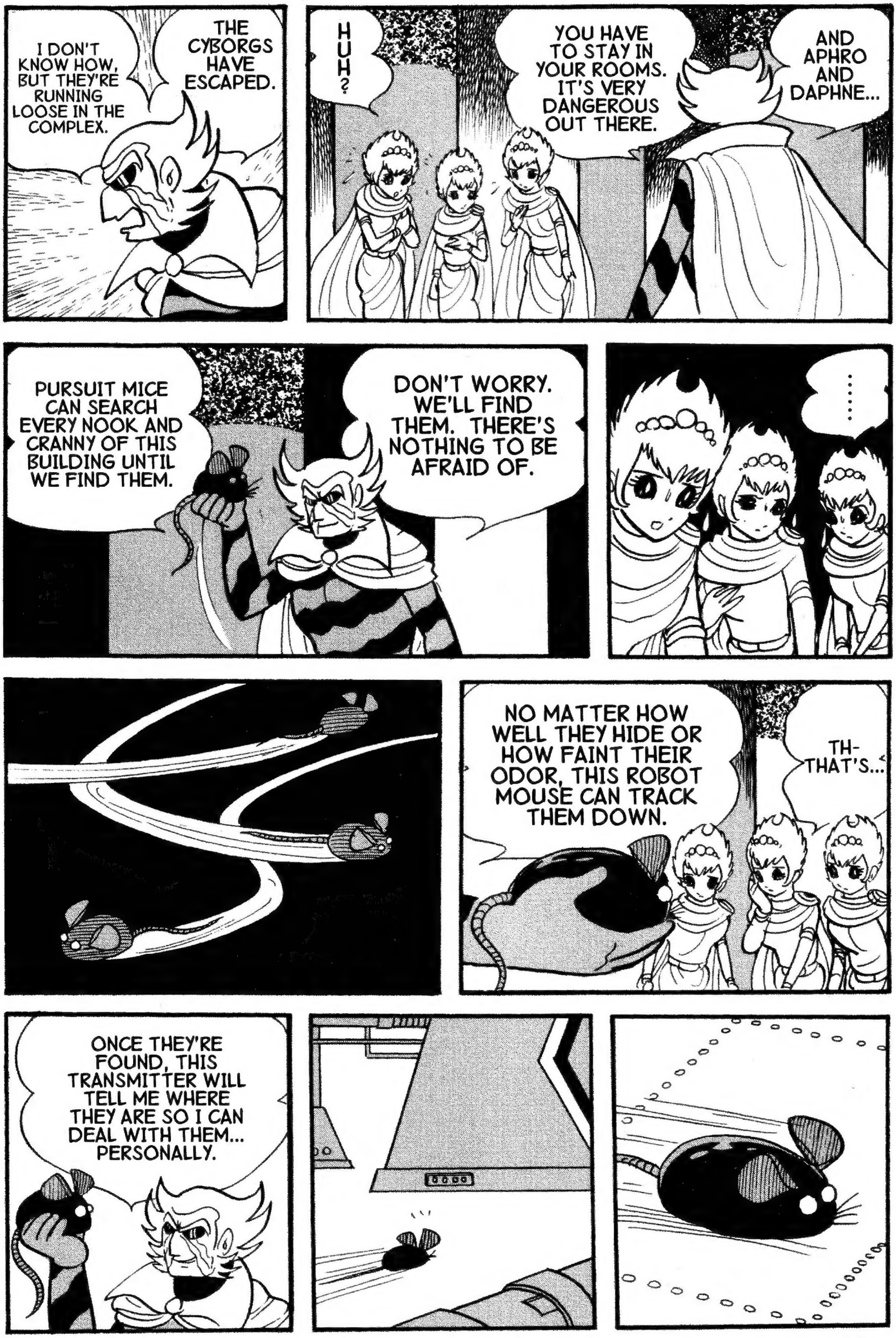


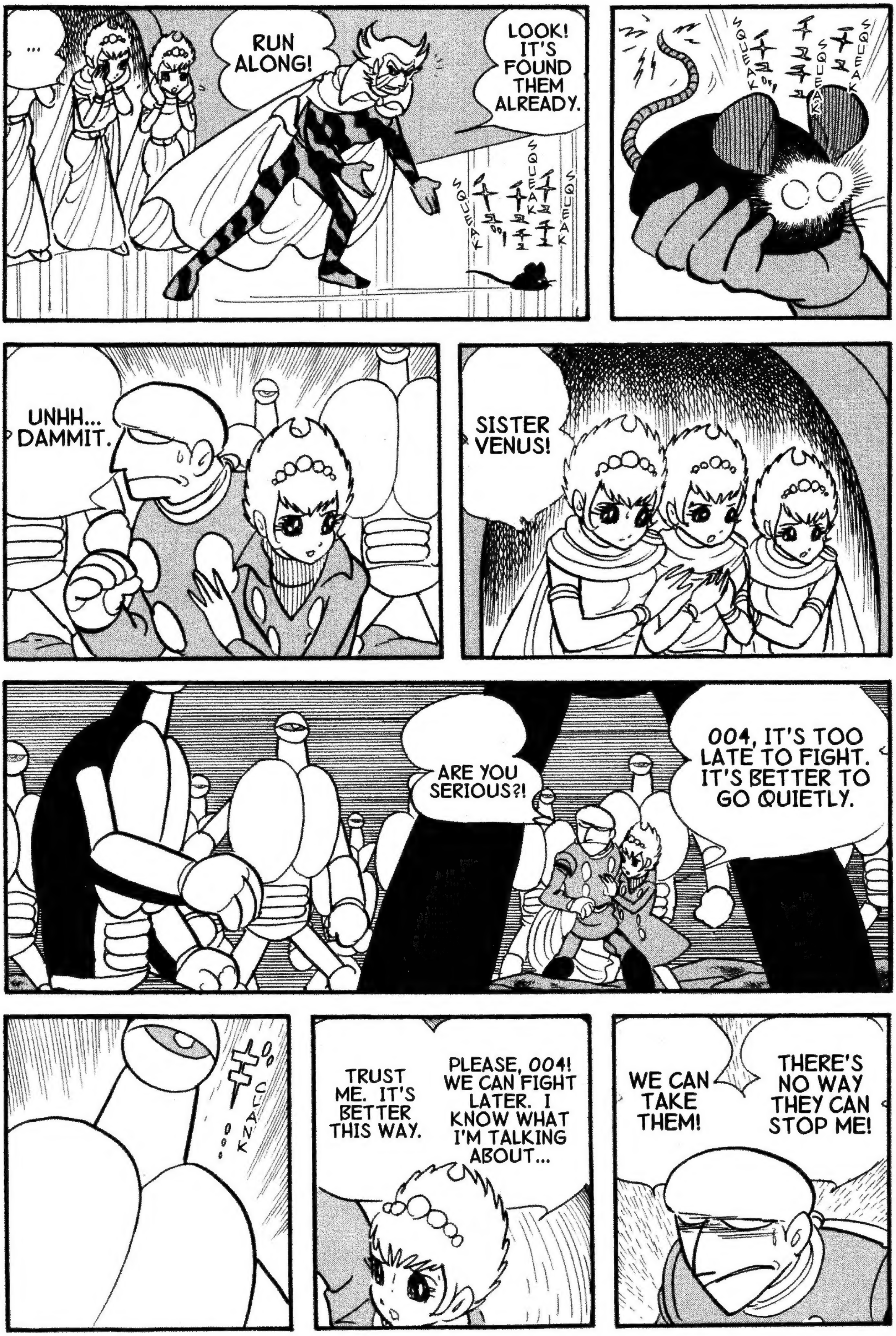

EEP!
SHH! QUIET...
WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
PSST
AH.
TAK TAK TAK
FOLLOW ME!

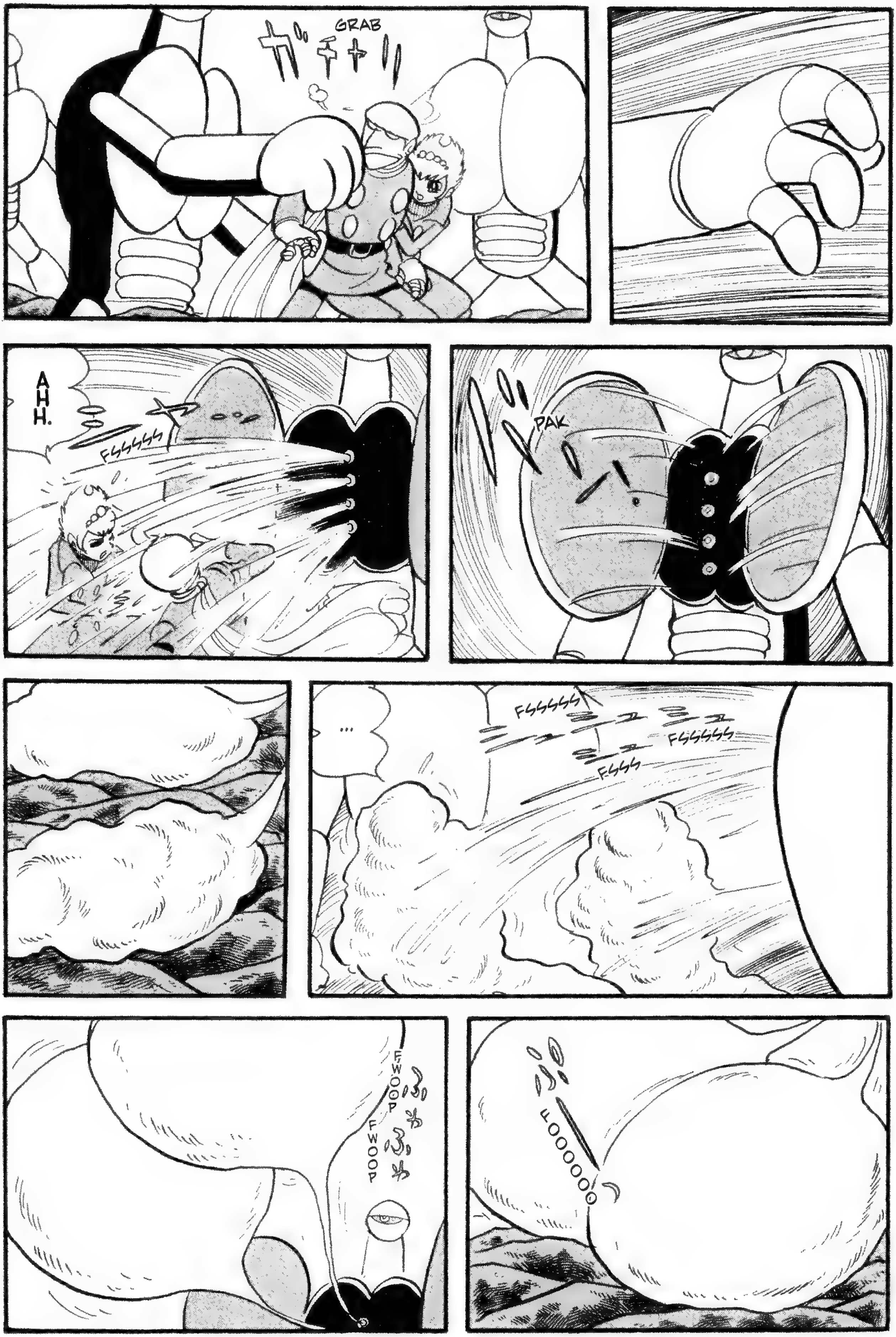

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
HURRY! THIS WAY!
THE ALARM.
THEY MUST HAVE ESCAPED!
WHERE DID THEY GO?
AH.
AH.
AH.
DASH
DOOF
SOK
WHOK

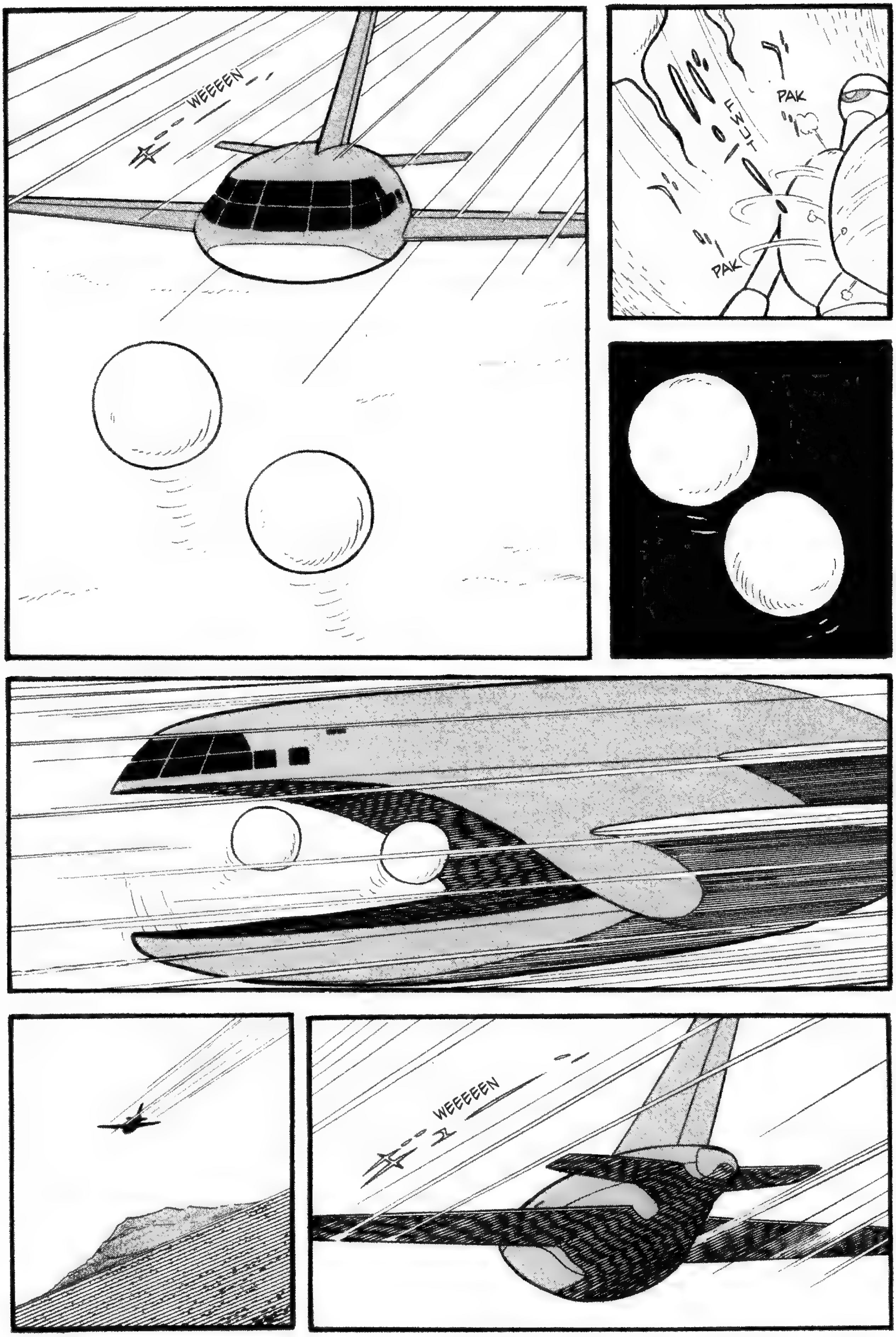

THROW THEM IN HERE.
CLOSE IT.
BEEP
HEHE HEHE! THANKS.
COME. GO THIS WAY.
ARE YOU A WOMAN?
NOW WE HAVE BLASTERS!
THAT SHOULD MAKE THIS A WHOLE LOT EASIER!
WHAT ARE WE WAITING AROUND FOR? LET'S GO!
NOT SO FAST!
THERE'S NO TIME FOR FORMALITIES. FOR NOW, WE HAVE TO HIDE.
WHO ARE YOU?
WHY DON'T YOU SHOW US WHO YOU ARE?
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
THEY'RE LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU RIGHT NOW.
AH.

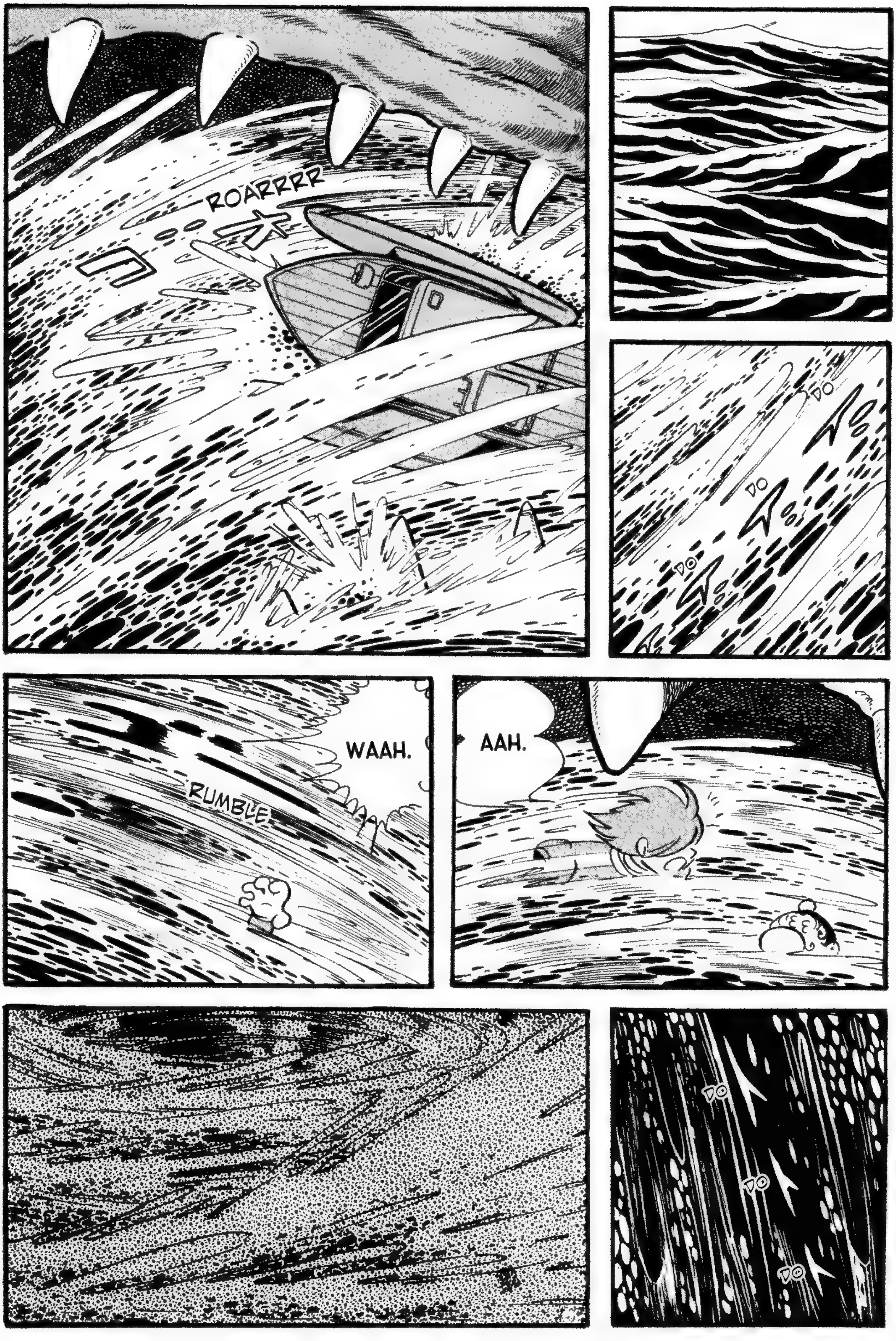

CHAK
WEE-OO
...
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
...HURRY!
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
WEE-OO
DID ANYONE FIND YOU DAPHNE?
N...NO, SISTER APHRO!
FWISH
GASP!
DIANA!

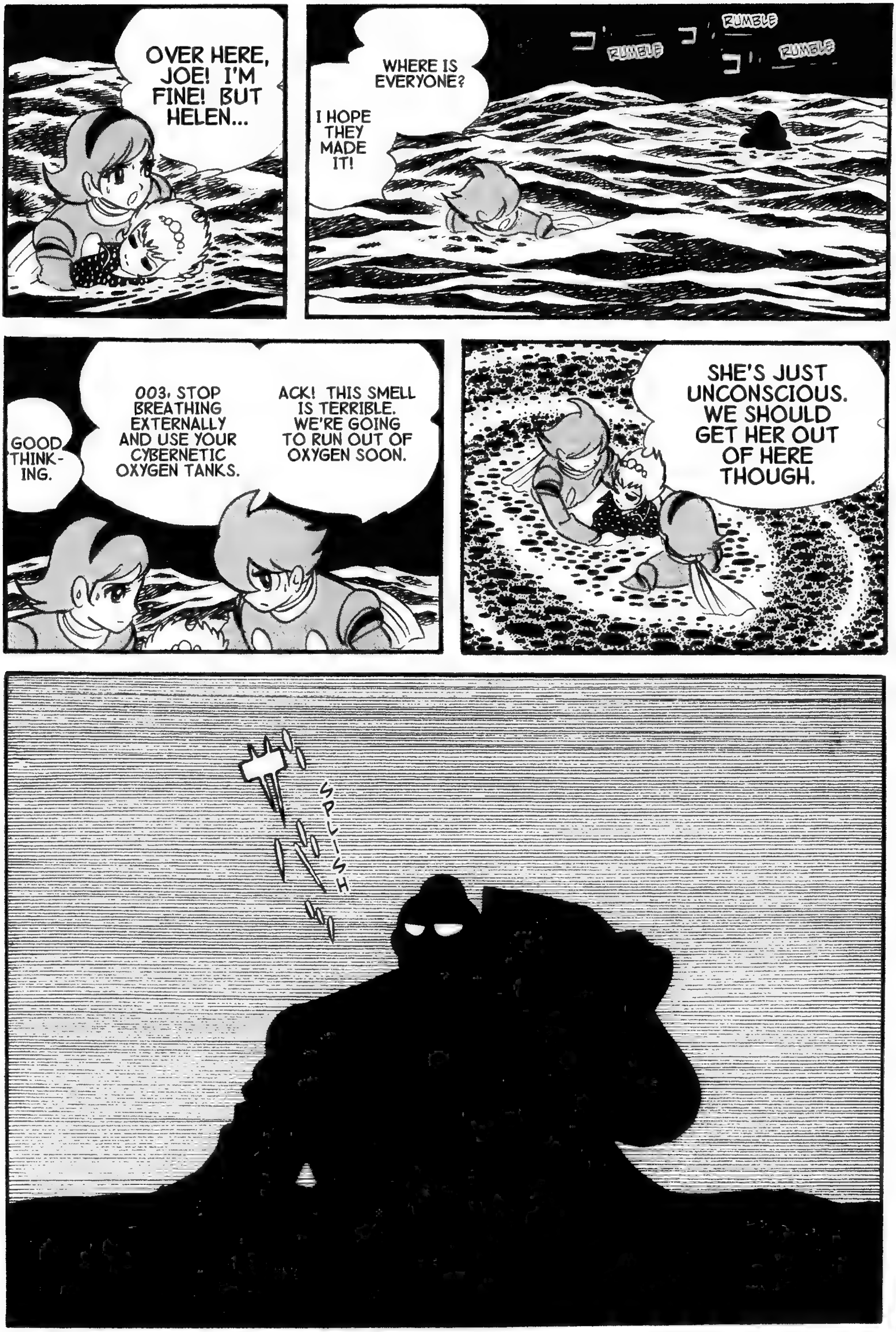

THE CYBORGS HAVE ESCAPED.
I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT THEY'RE RUNNING LOOSE IN THE COMPLEX.
AND APHRO AND DAPHNE...
YOU HAVE TO STAY IN YOUR ROOMS. IT'S VERY DANGEROUS OUT THERE.
HUH?
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL FIND THEM. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.
PURSUIT MICE CAN SEARCH EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY OF THIS BUILDING UNTIL WE FIND THEM.
......
NO MATTER HOW WELL THEY HIDE OR HOW FAINT THEIR ODOR, THIS ROBOT MOUSE CAN TRACK THEM DOWN.
TH- THAT'S...
ONCE THEY'RE FOUND, THIS TRANSMITTER WILL TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE SO I CAN DEAL WITH THEM... PERSONALLY.

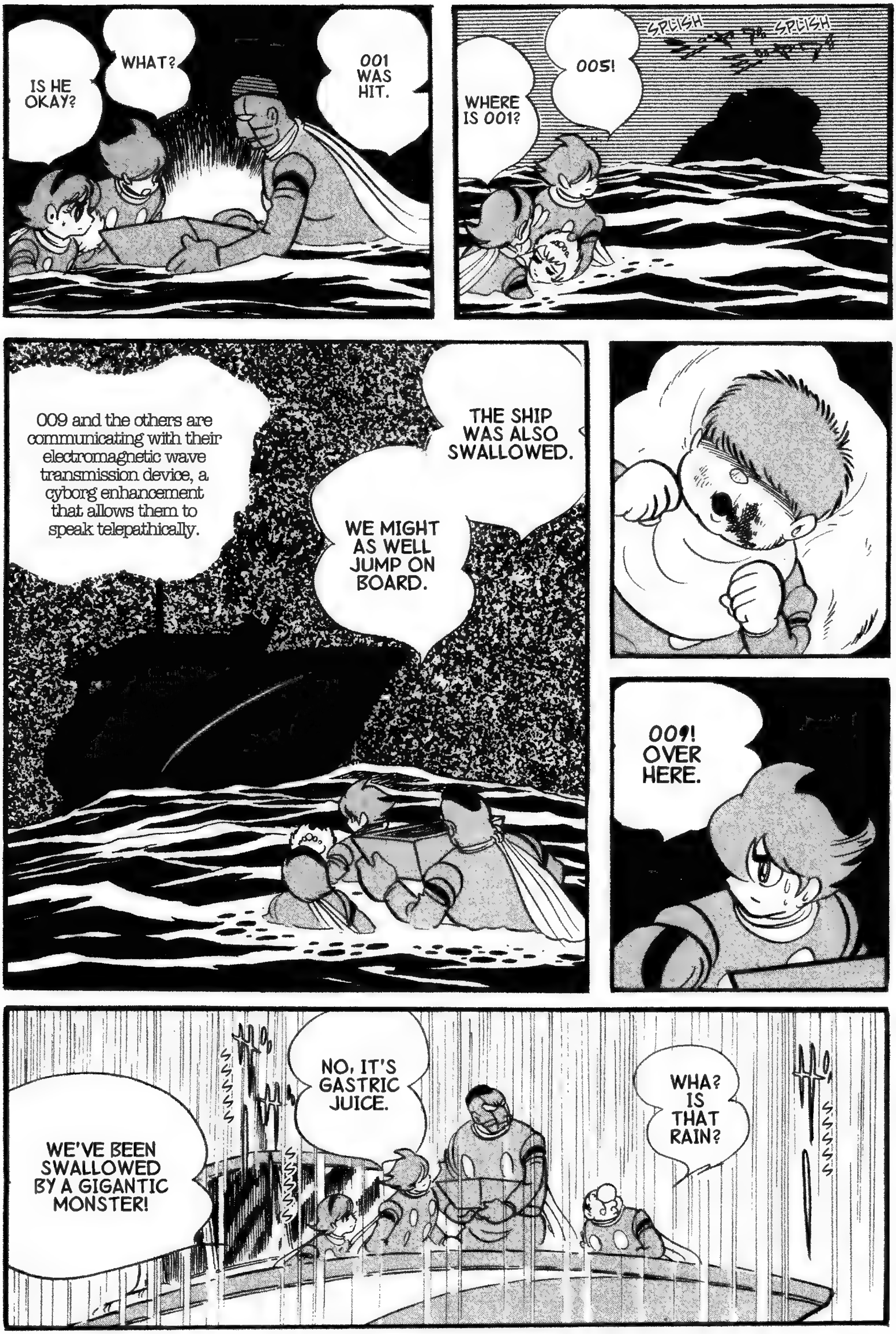

LOOK! IT'S FOUND THEM ALREADY.
RUN ALONG!
...
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
SQUEAK SQUEAK SQUEAK
UNHH... DAMMIT.
SISTER VENUS!
004, IT'S TOO LATE TO FIGHT. IT'S BETTER TO GO QUIETLY.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
CLANK
PLEASE, 004! WE CAN FIGHT LATER. I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...
TRUST ME. IT'S BETTER THIS WAY.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY CAN STOP ME!
WE CAN TAKE THEM!

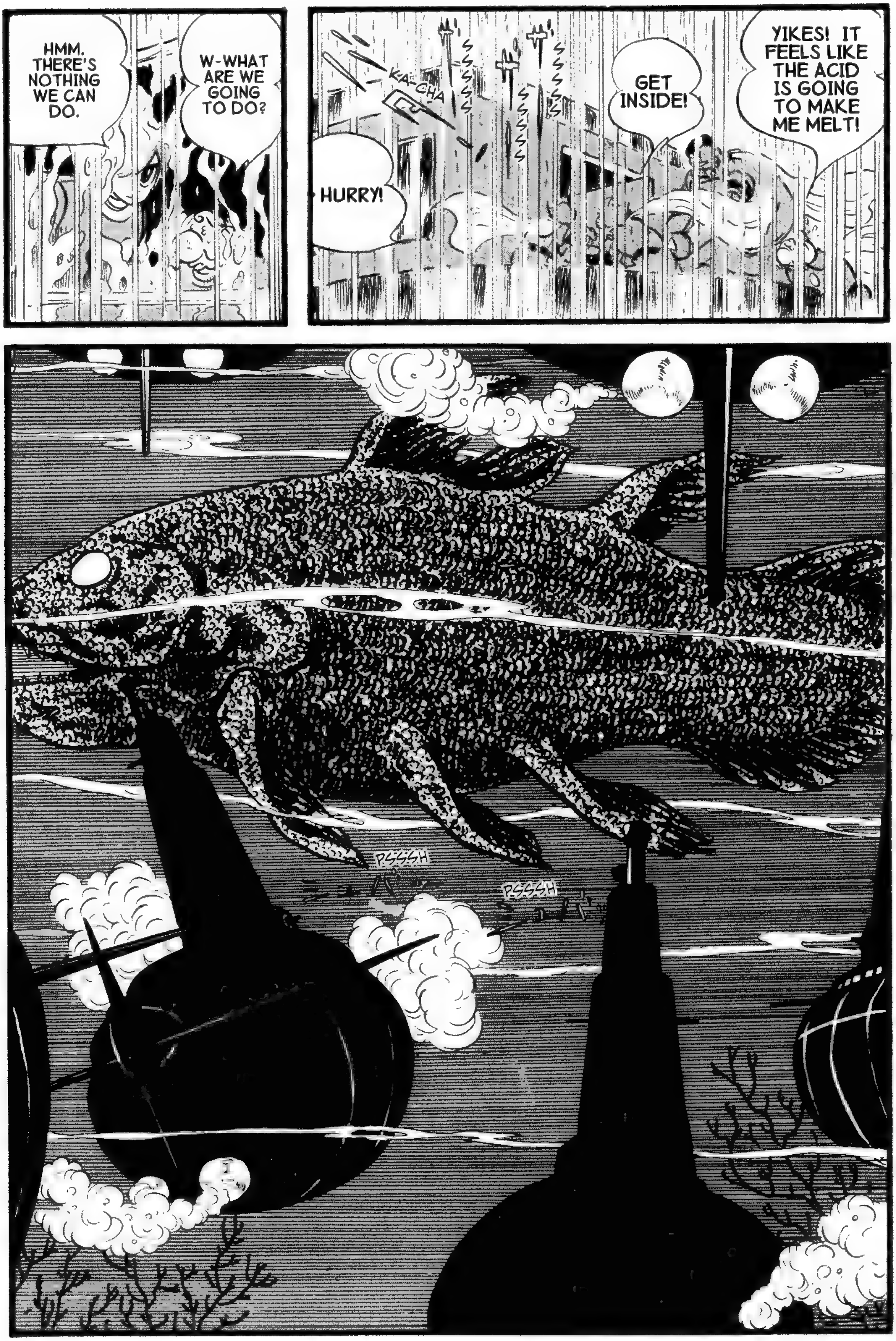

GRAB
AHH.
FSSSSS
PAK
...
FSSSSS
FSSSSS
FSSS
FWOOP
FWOOP
FOOOOOO

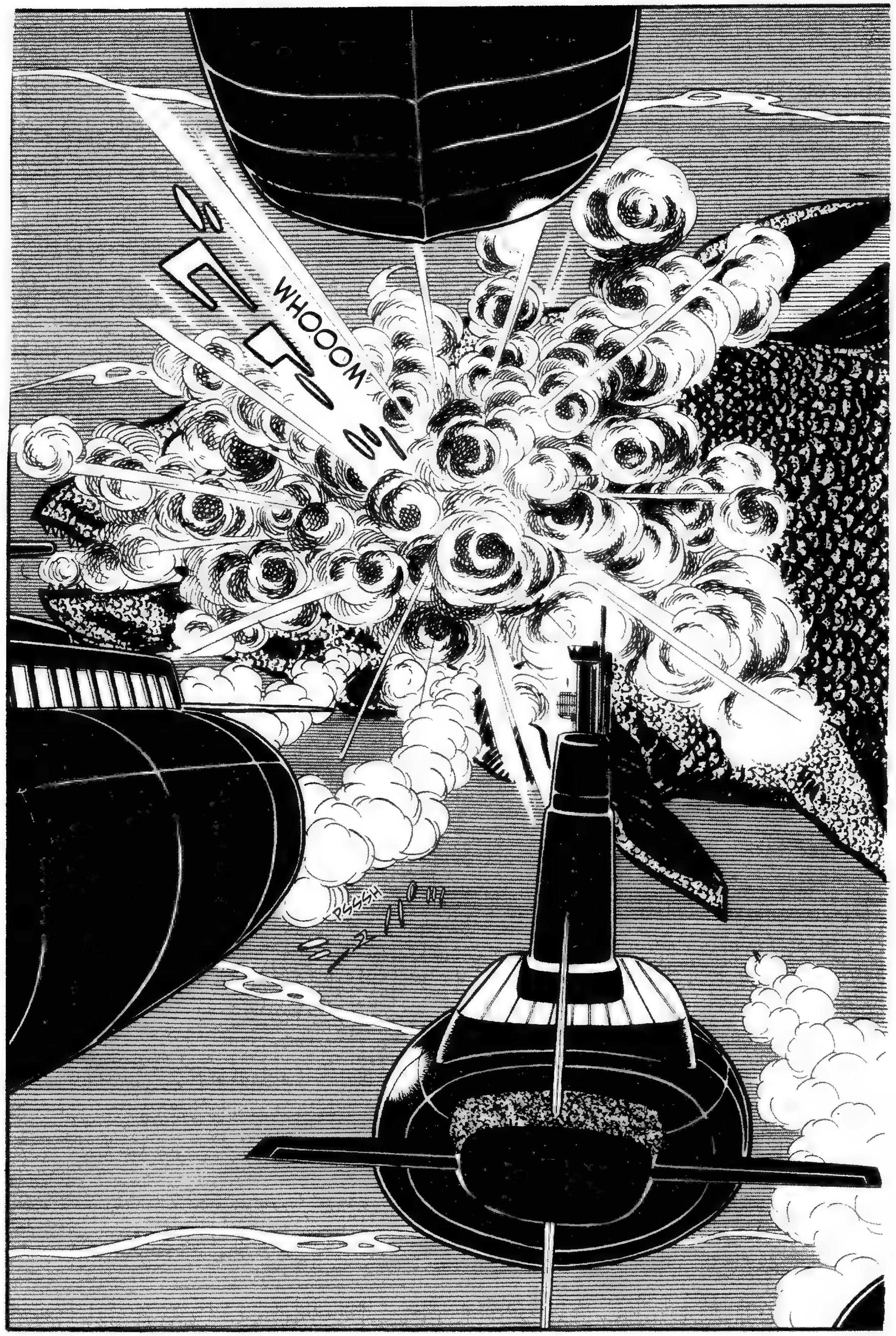

WEEEEN
FWUT
PAK
PAK
WEEEEEN

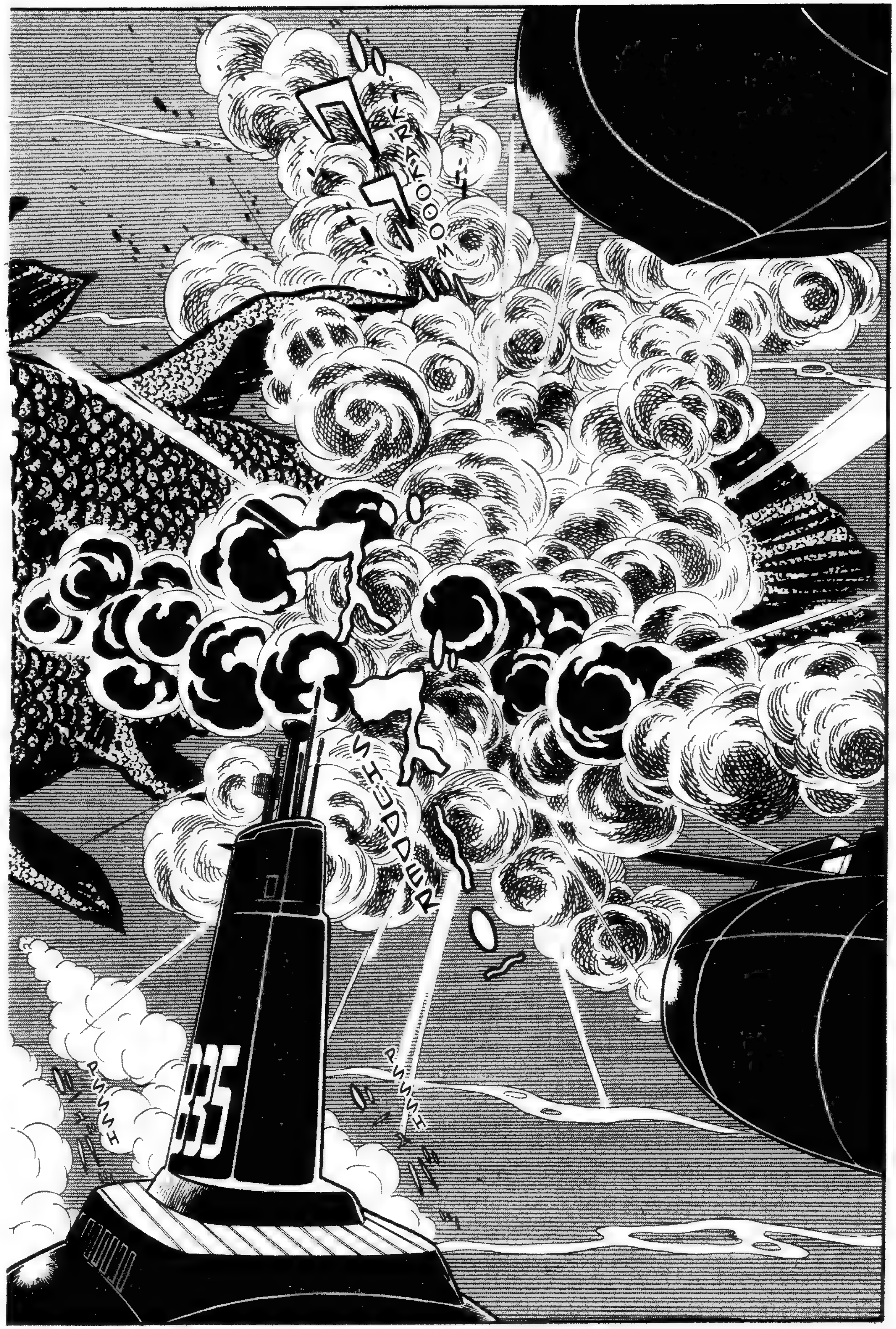

DO
DO
DO
ROARRRR
AAH.
WAAH.
RUMBLE
DO
DO
DO

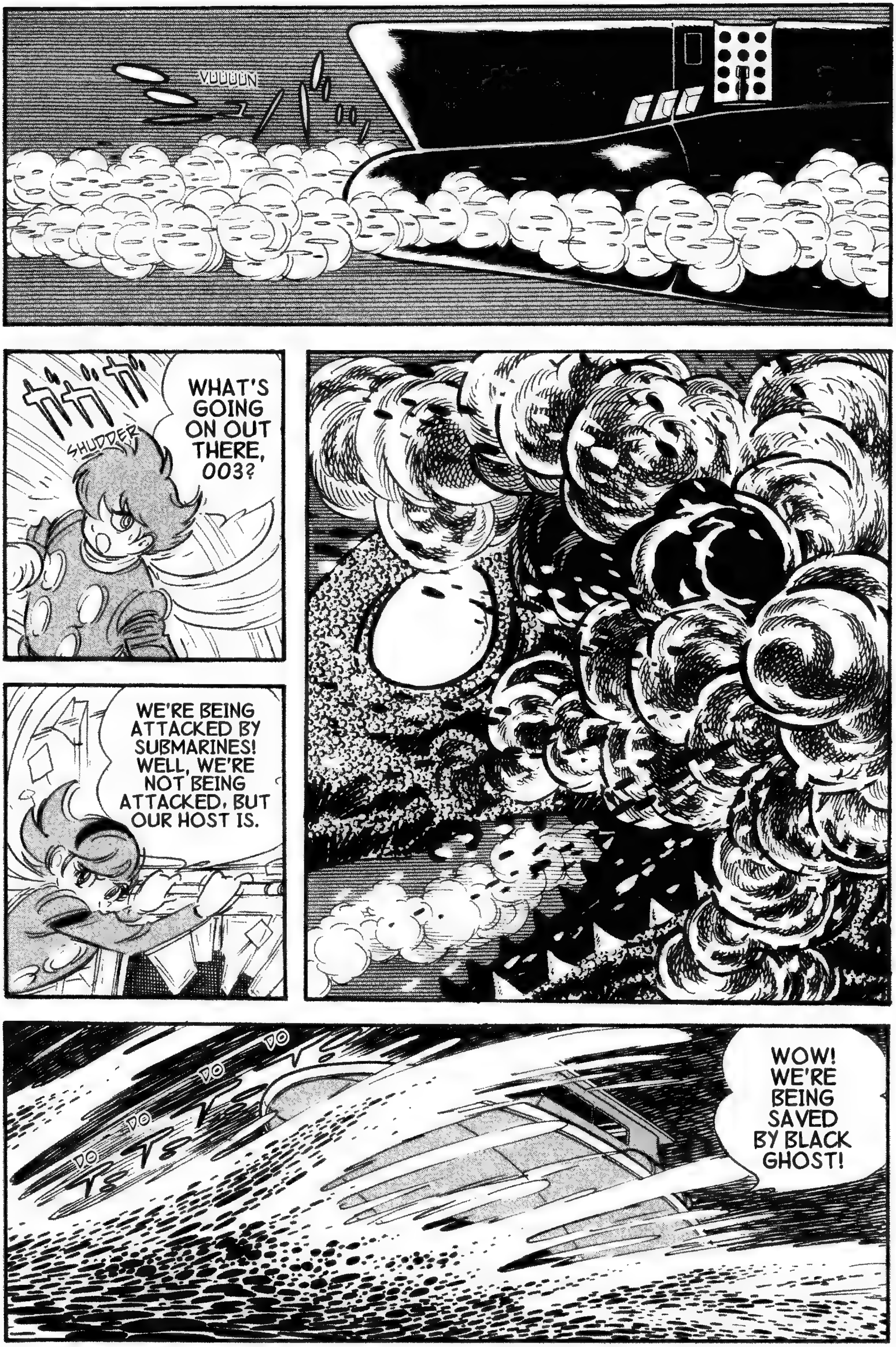

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
I HOPE THEY MADE IT!
OVER HERE, JOE! I'M FINE! BUT HELEN...
SHE'S JUST UNCONSCIOUS. WE SHOULD GET HER OUT OF HERE THOUGH.
ACK! THIS SMELL IS TERRIBLE. WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF OXYGEN SOON.
003, STOP BREATHING EXTERNALLY AND USE YOUR CYBERNETIC OXYGEN TANKS.
GOOD THINKING.
SPLISH

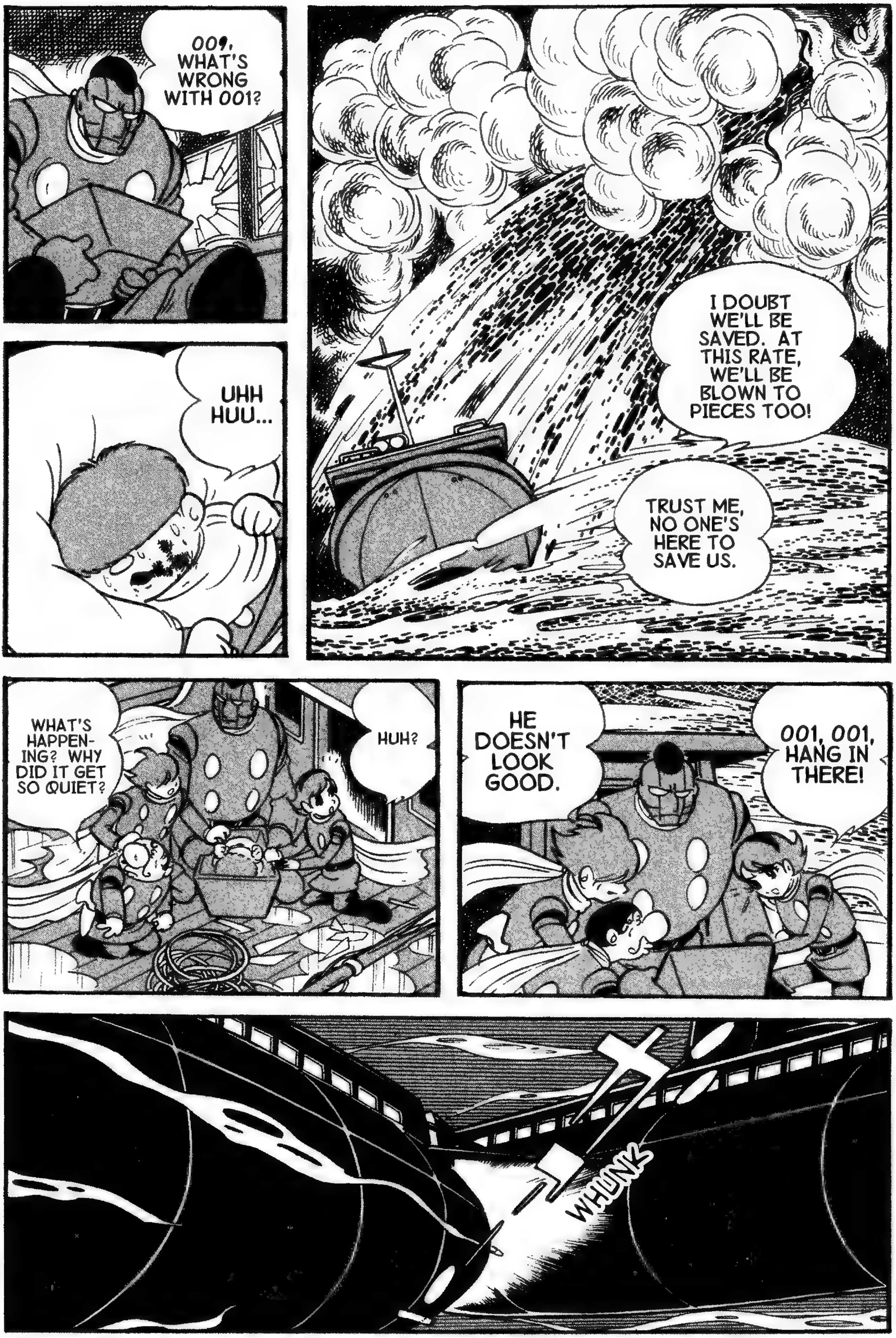

SPLISH
SPLISH
005!
WHERE IS 001?
001 WAS HIT.
WHAT?
IS HE OKAY?
009! OVER HERE.
THE SHIP WAS ALSO SWALLOWED.
WE MIGHT AS WELL JUMP ON BOARD.
009 and the others are communicating with their electromagnetic wave transmission device, a cyborg enhancement that allows them to speak telepathically.
SSSSS
WHA? IS THAT RAIN?
NO, IT'S GASTRIC JUICE.
WE'VE BEEN SWALLOWED BY A GIGANTIC MONSTER!

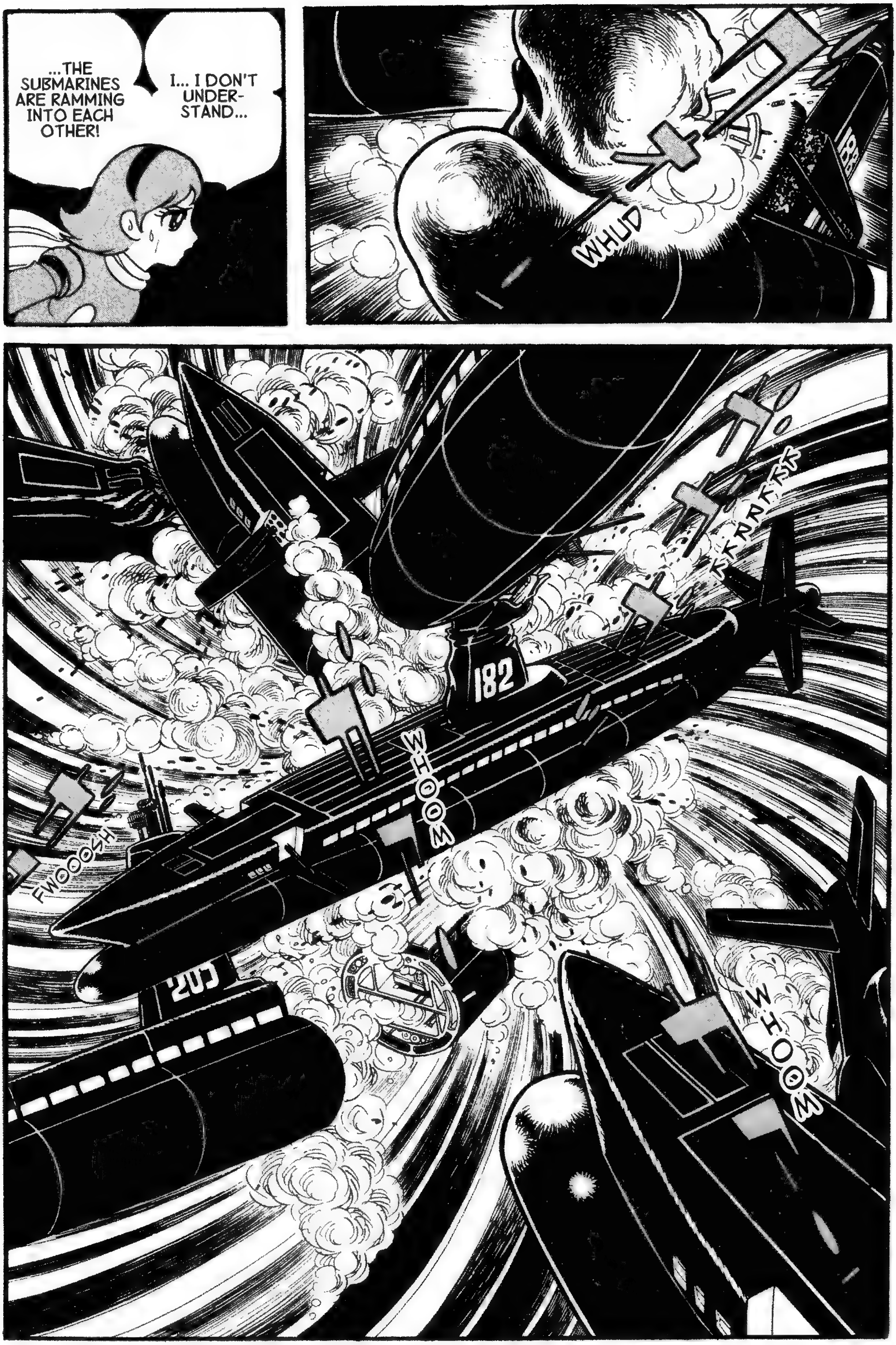

W-WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
HMM. THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
KA-CHA
YIKES! IT FEELS LIKE THE ACID IS GOING TO MAKE ME MELT!
GET INSIDE!
HURRY!
PSSSH
PSSSH

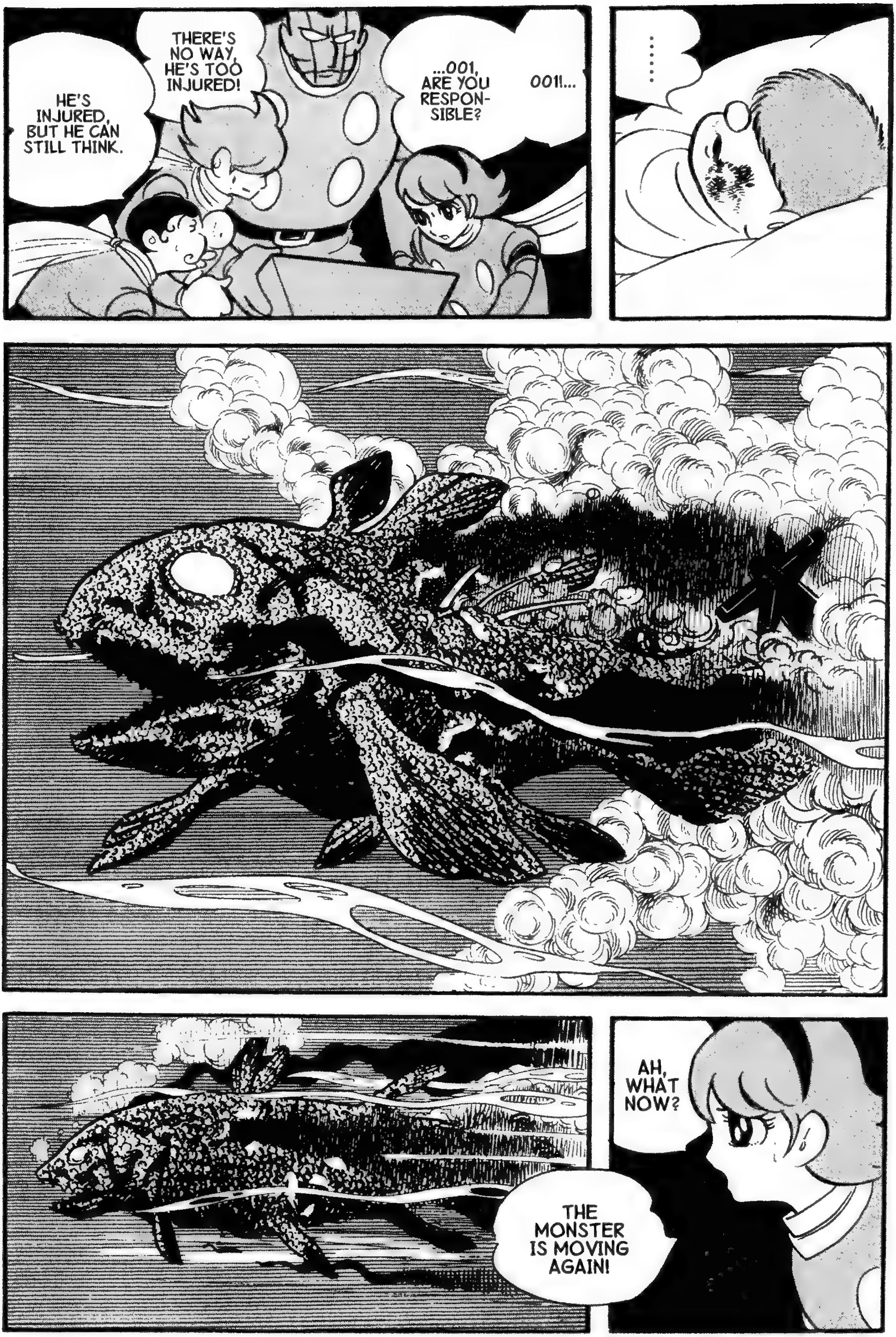

WHOOOM
PSSSH

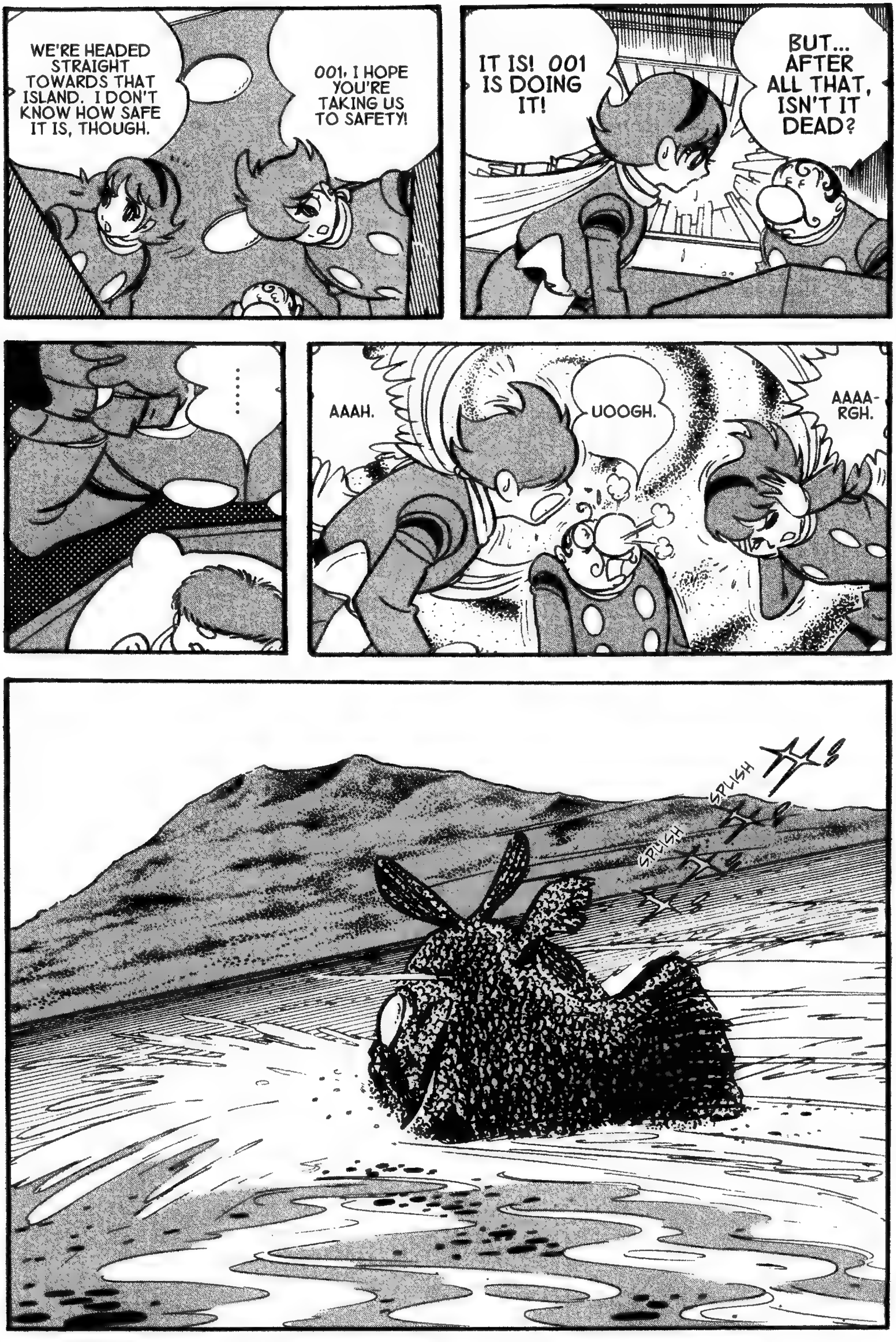

KRAKOOOM
SHUDDER
PSSSH
PSSSH
335

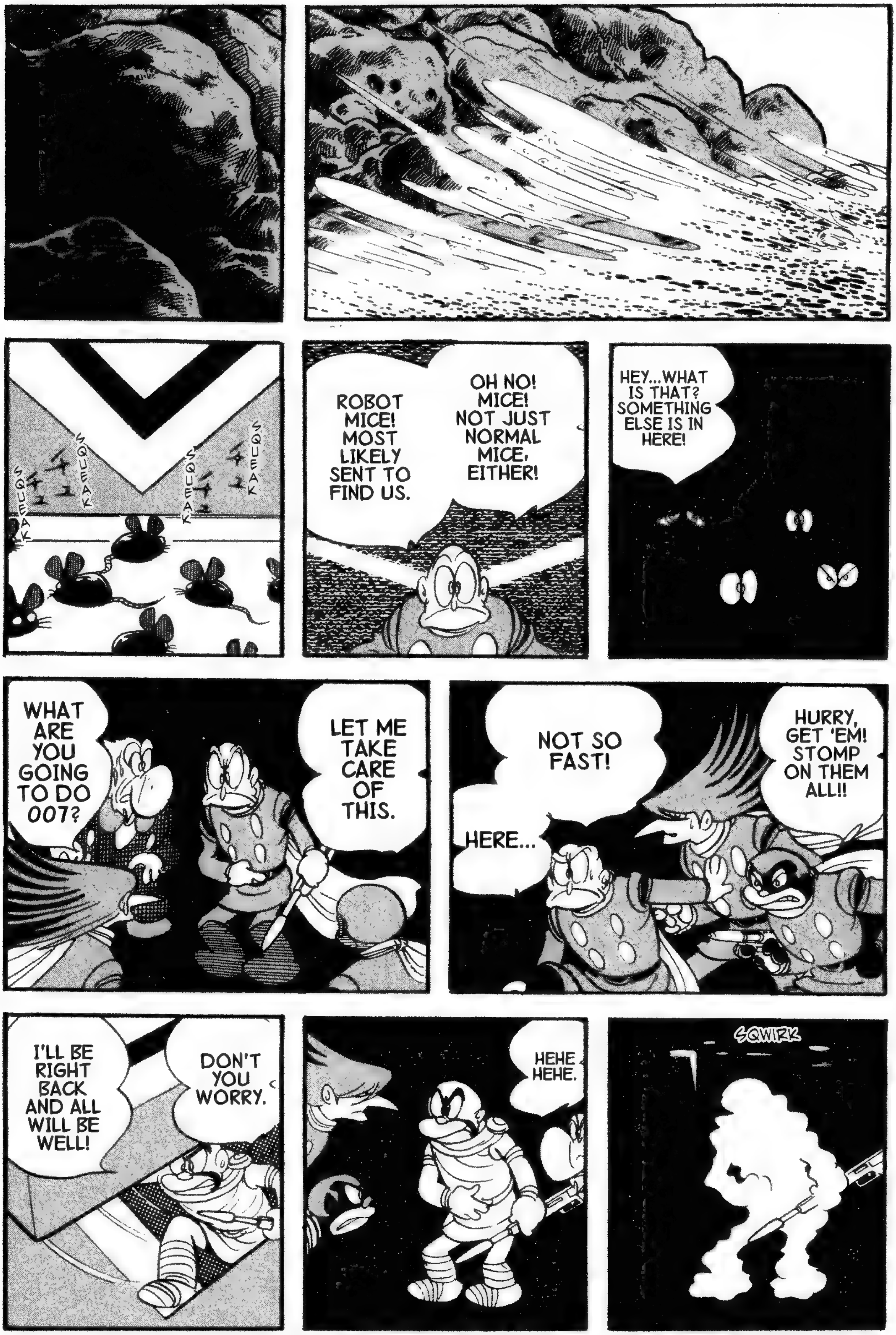

VUUUUN
ガガガ
SHUDDER
WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE, 003?
WE'RE BEING ATTACKED BY SUBMARINES! WELL, WE'RE NOT BEING ATTACKED, BUT OUR HOST IS.
DO
DO
DO
DO
WOW! WE'RE BEING SAVED BY BLACK GHOST!

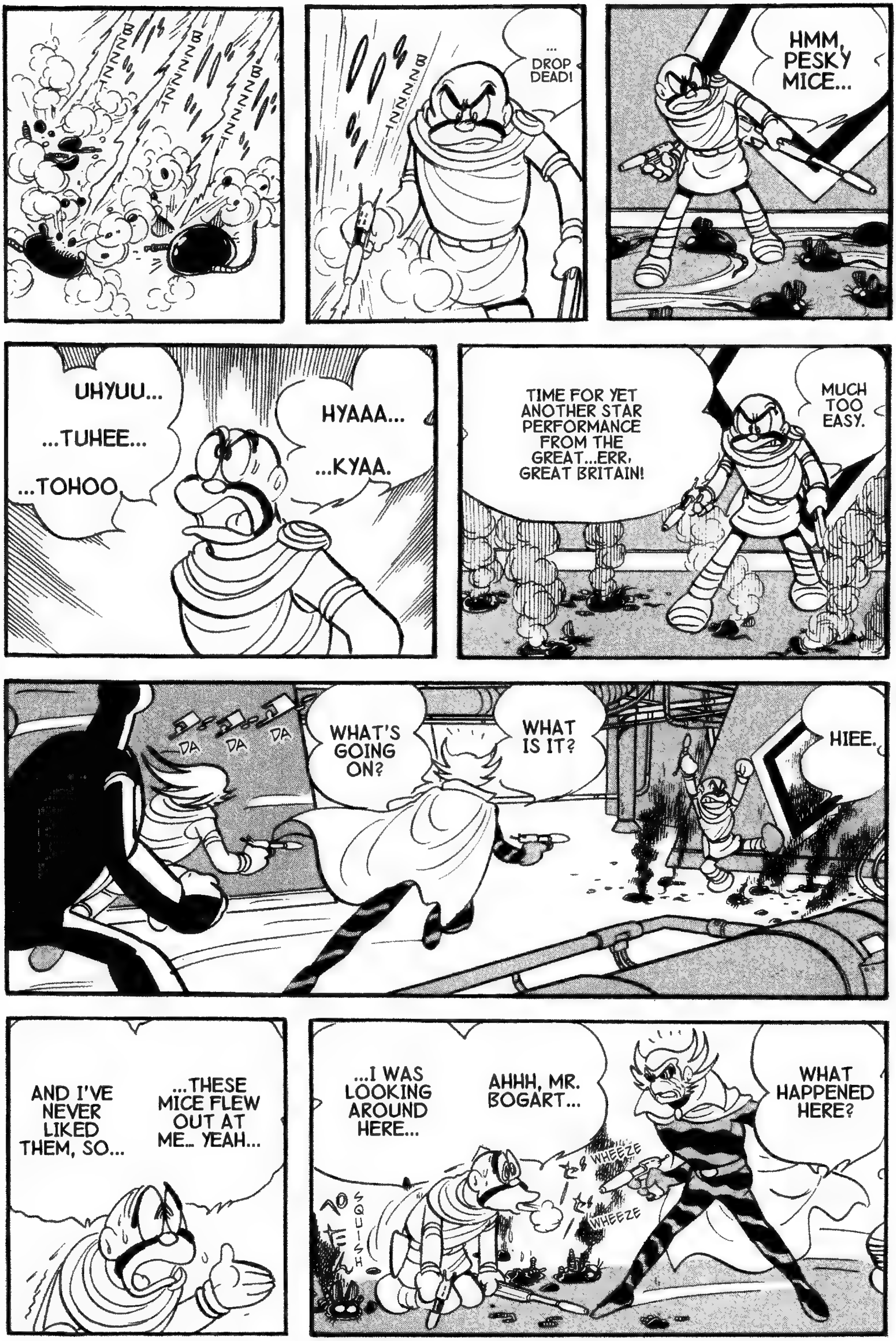

009, WHAT'S WRONG WITH 001?
UHH HUU...
I DOUBT WE'LL BE SAVED. AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE BLOWN TO PIECES TOO!
TRUST ME, NO ONE'S HERE TO SAVE US.
WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHY DID IT GET SO QUIET?
HUH?
HE DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
001, 001, HANG IN THERE!
WHUNK

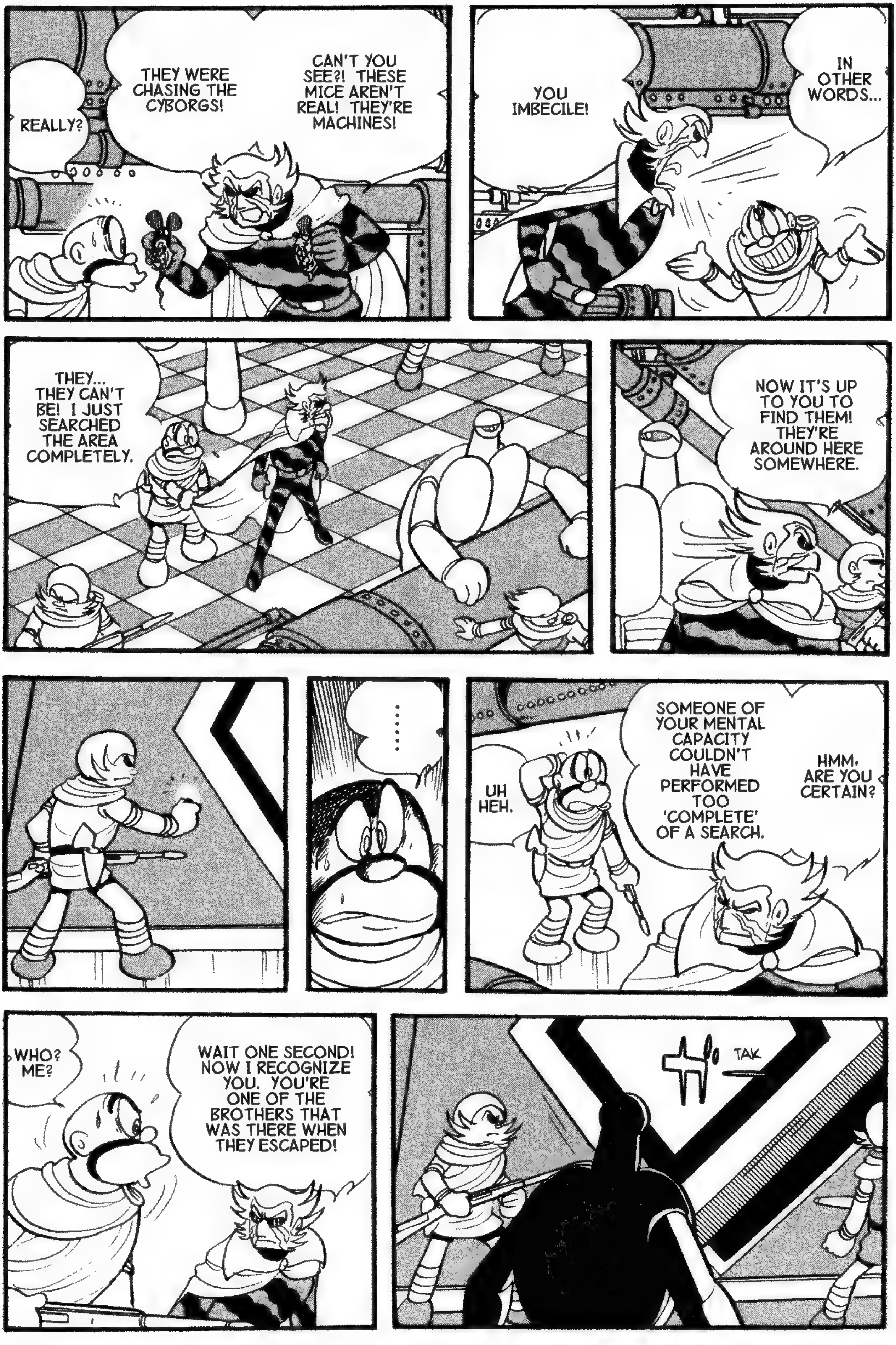

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...THE SUBMARINES ARE RAMMING INTO EACH OTHER!
WHUD
188
KKRRKKK
182
WHOOM
FWOOOSH
203
WHOOM

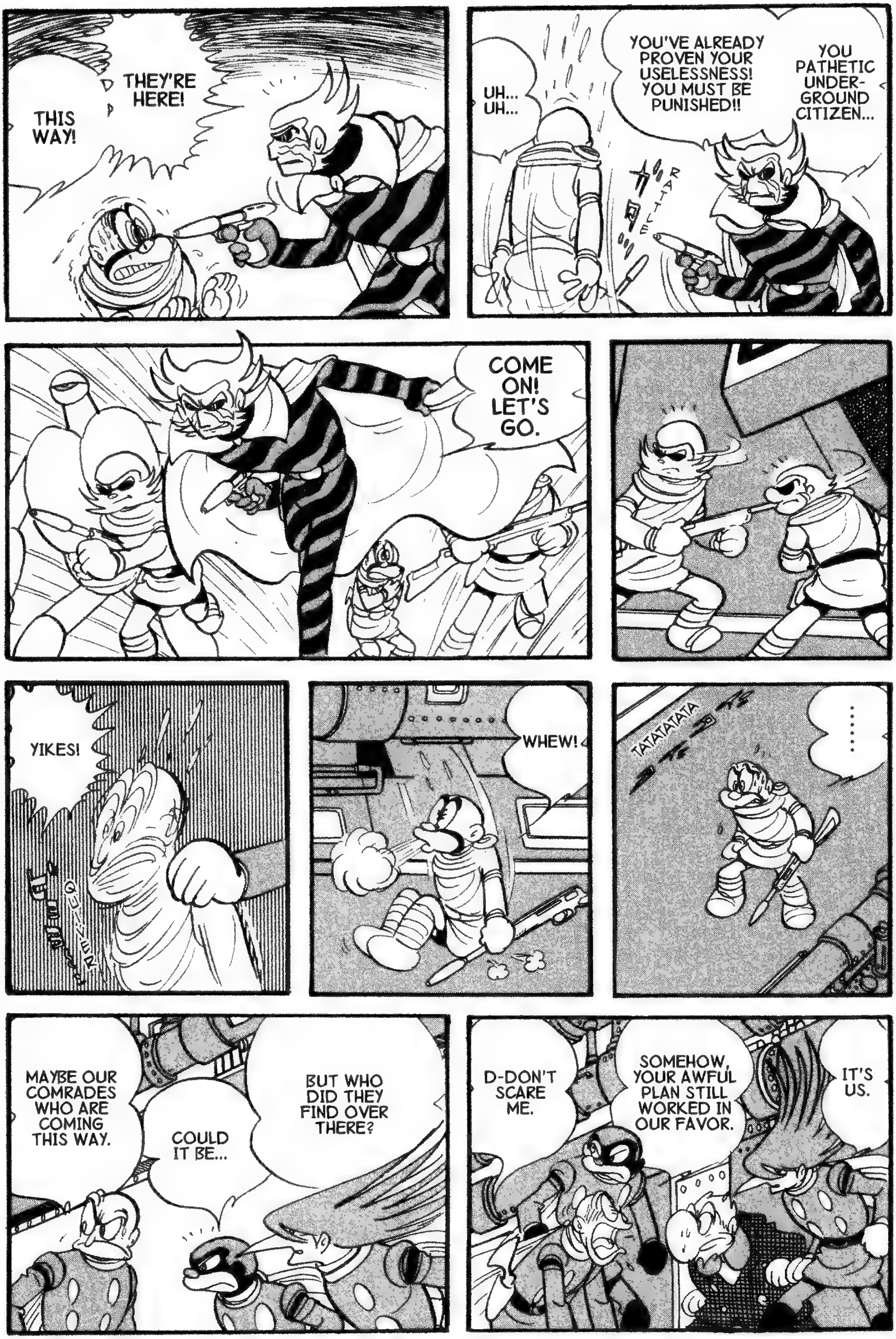

......
001!...
...001, ARE YOU RESPONSIBLE?
THERE'S NO WAY, HE'S TOO INJURED!
HE'S INJURED, BUT HE CAN STILL THINK.
AH, WHAT NOW?
THE MONSTER IS MOVING AGAIN!

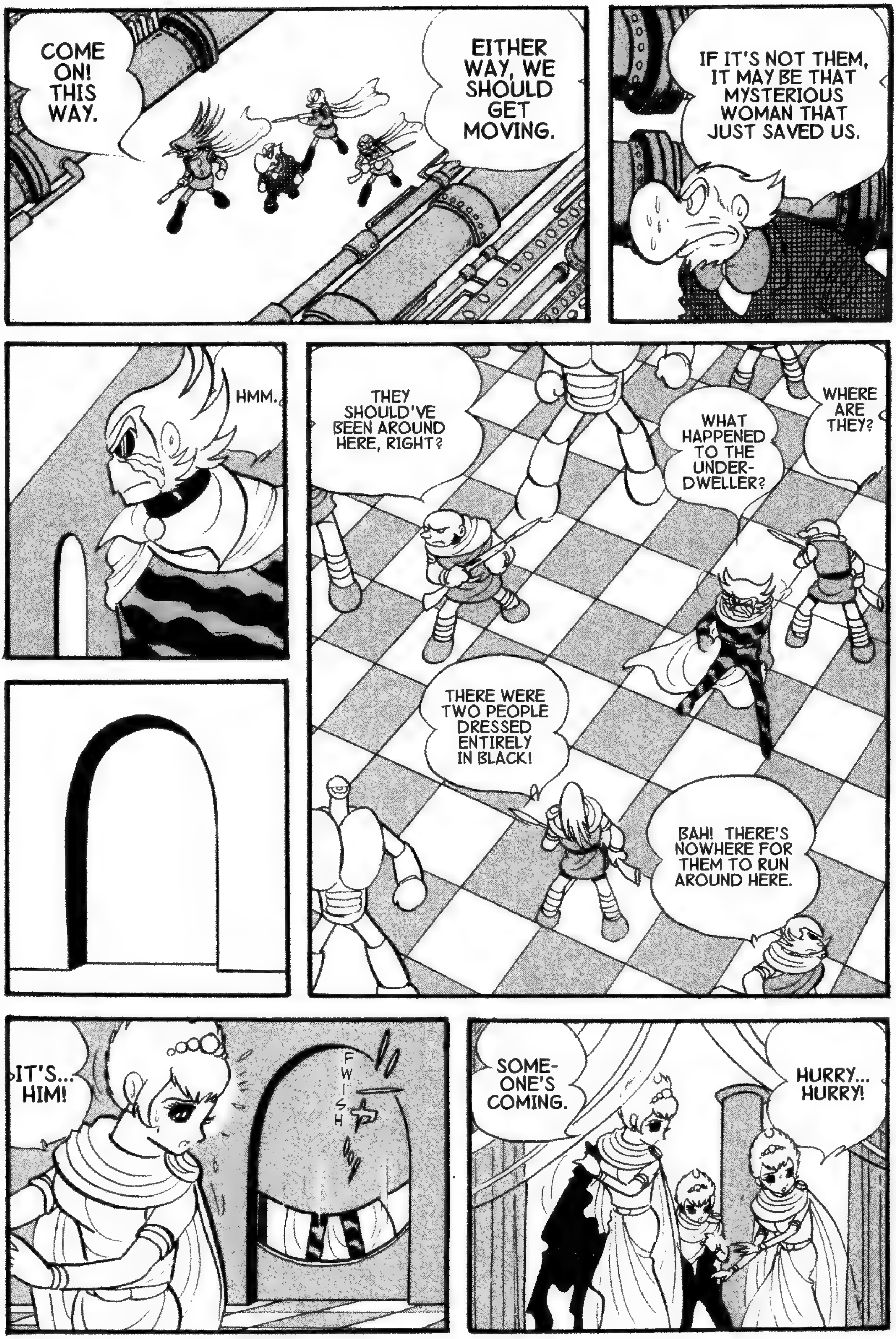

WE'RE HEADED STRAIGHT TOWARDS THAT ISLAND. I DON'T KNOW HOW SAFE IT IS, THOUGH.
001, I HOPE YOU'RE TAKING US TO SAFETY!
IT IS! 001 IS DOING IT!
BUT... AFTER ALL THAT, ISN'T IT DEAD?
......
AAAH.
UOOGH.
AAAA-RGH.
SPLISH
SPLISH

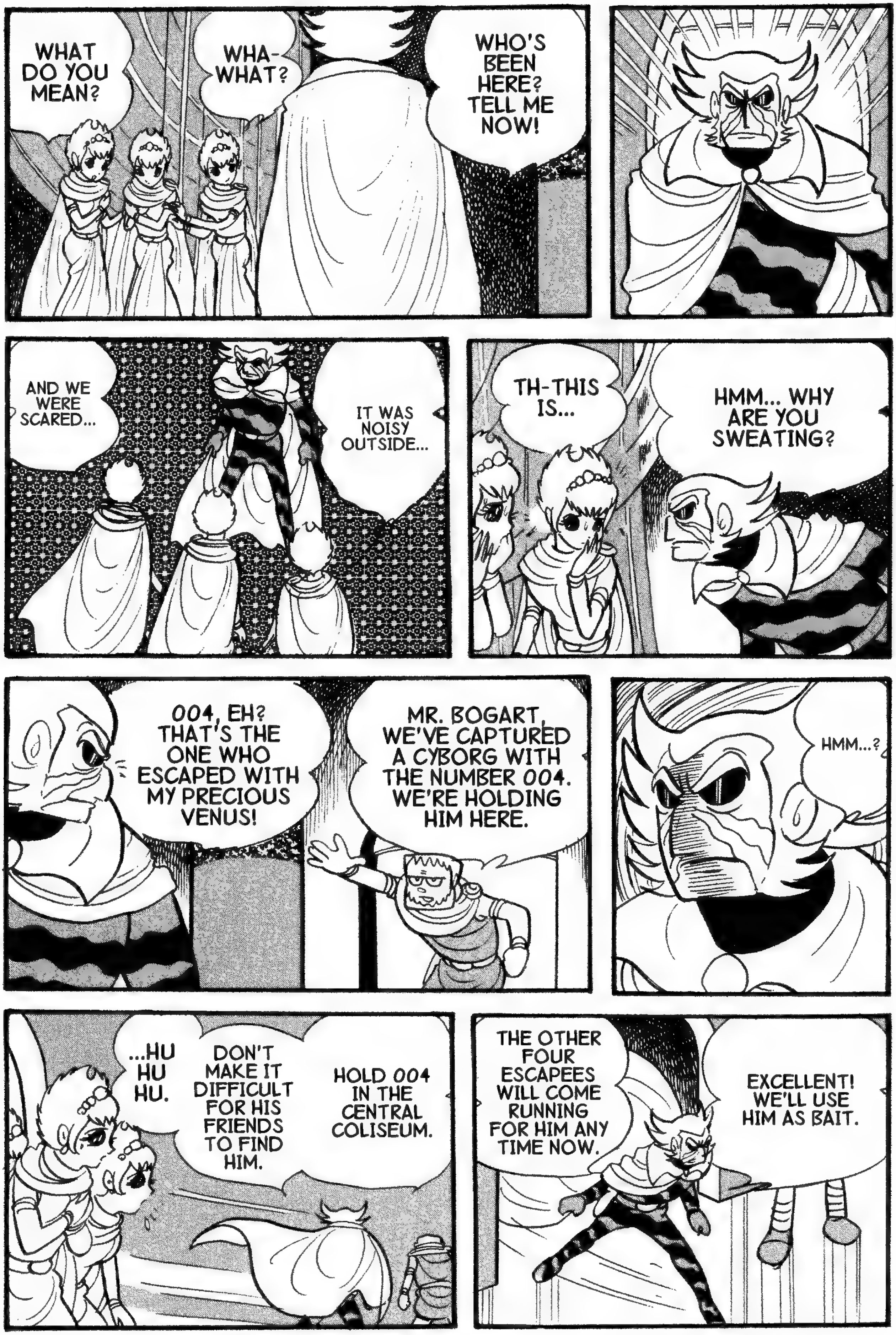

SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
OH NO! MICE! NOT JUST NORMAL MICE, EITHER!
ROBOT MICE! MOST LIKELY SENT TO FIND US.
HEY...WHAT IS THAT? SOMETHING ELSE IS IN HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO 007?
LET ME TAKE CARE OF THIS.
HURRY, GET 'EM! STOMP ON THEM ALL!!
NOT SO FAST!
HERE...
DON'T YOU WORRY.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK AND ALL WILL BE WELL!
HEHE HEHE.
SQWIRK

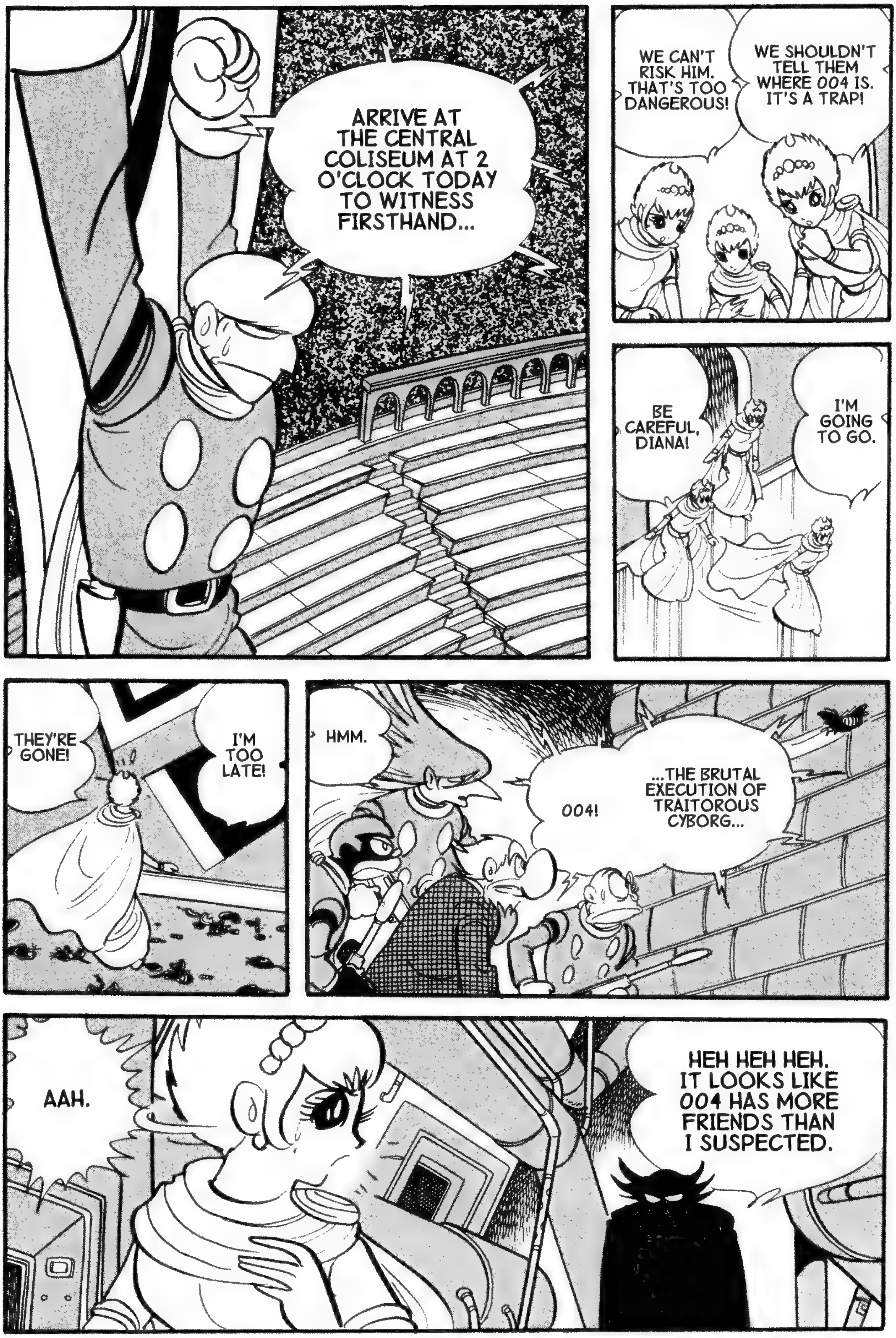

HMM, PESKY MICE...
...DROP DEAD!
BZZZZZT
BZZZT
BZZZZZT
BZZZZZZT
MUCH TOO EASY.
TIME FOR YET ANOTHER STAR PERFORMANCE FROM THE GREAT...ERR, GREAT BRITAIN!
HYAAA... ...KYAA.
UHYUU... ...TUHEE... ...TOHOO.
HIEE.
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
DA DA DA
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
AHHH, MR. BOGART...
...I WAS LOOKING AROUND HERE...
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
SQUISH
...THESE MICE FLEW OUT AT ME.. YEAH...
AND I'VE NEVER LIKED THEM, SO...

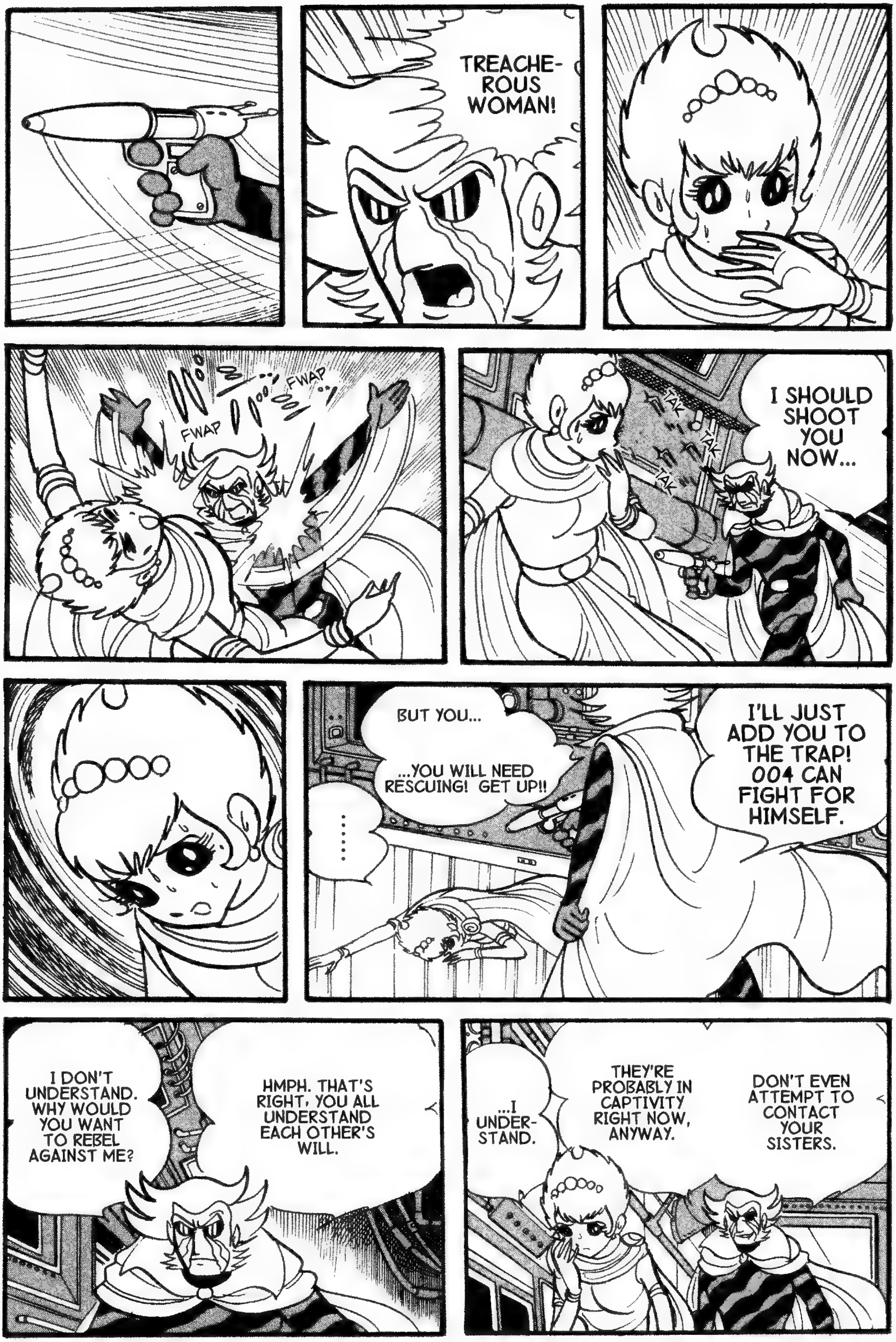

REALLY?
THEY WERE CHASING THE CYBORGS!
CAN'T YOU SEE?! THESE MICE AREN'T REAL! THEY'RE MACHINES!
IN OTHER WORDS...
YOU IMBECILE!
THEY... THEY CAN'T BE! I JUST SEARCHED THE AREA COMPLETELY.
NOW IT'S UP TO YOU TO FIND THEM! THEY'RE AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE.
......
HMM, ARE YOU CERTAIN?
SOMEONE OF YOUR MENTAL CAPACITY COULDN'T HAVE PERFORMED TOO 'COMPLETE' OF A SEARCH.
UH HEH.
WAIT ONE SECOND! NOW I RECOGNIZE YOU. YOU'RE ONE OF THE BROTHERS THAT WAS THERE WHEN THEY ESCAPED!
WHO? ME?
TAK

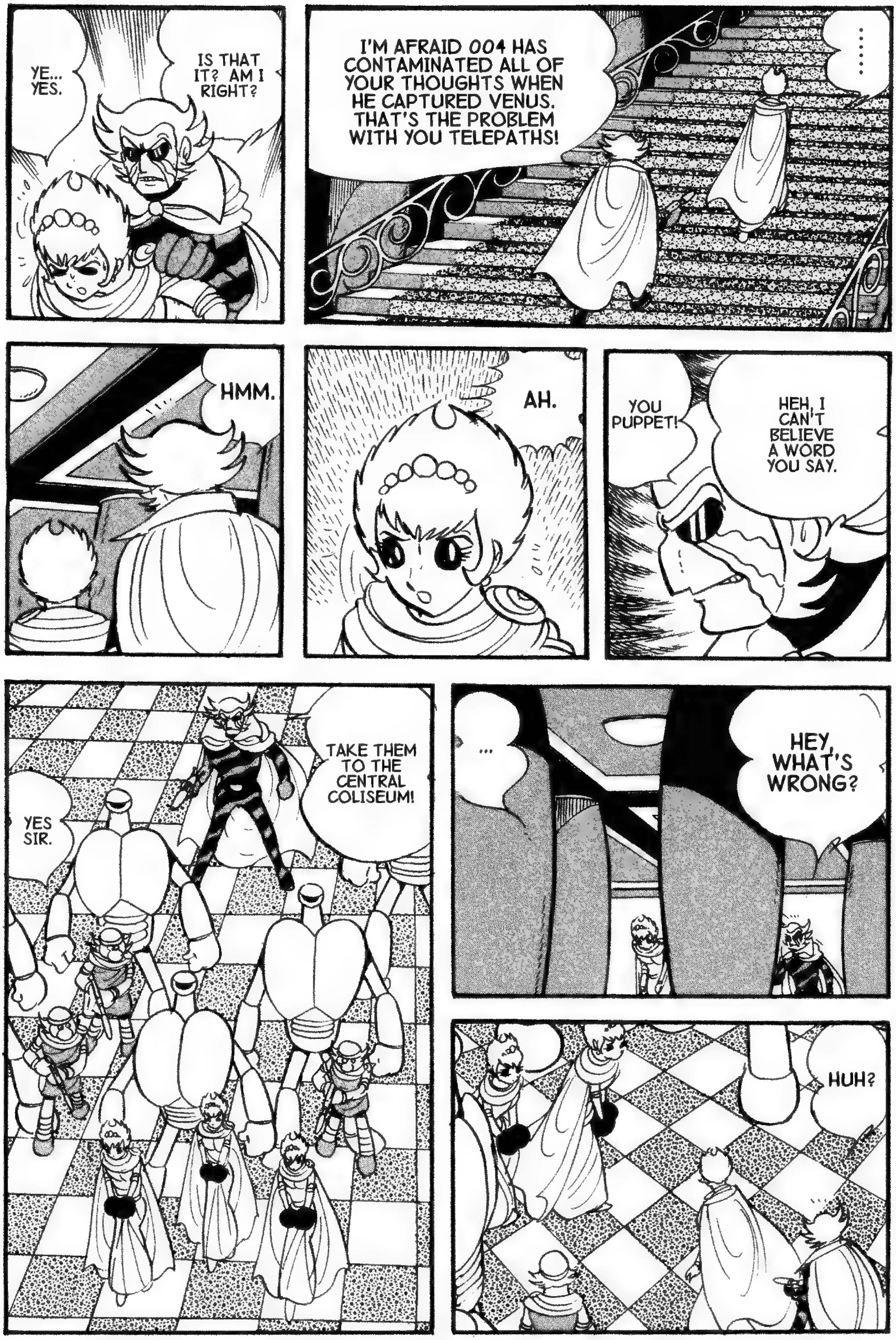

THEY'RE HERE!
THIS WAY!
YOU PATHETIC UNDERGROUND CITIZEN...
YOU'VE ALREADY PROVEN YOUR USELESSNESS! YOU MUST BE PUNISHED!!
UH... UH...
RATTLE
COME ON! LET'S GO.
YIKES!
QUIVER
WHEW!
......
TATATATATA
BUT WHO DID THEY FIND OVER THERE?
COULD IT BE...
MAYBE OUR COMRADES WHO ARE COMING THIS WAY.
IT'S US.
SOMEHOW, YOUR AWFUL PLAN STILL WORKED IN OUR FAVOR.
D-DON'T SCARE ME.

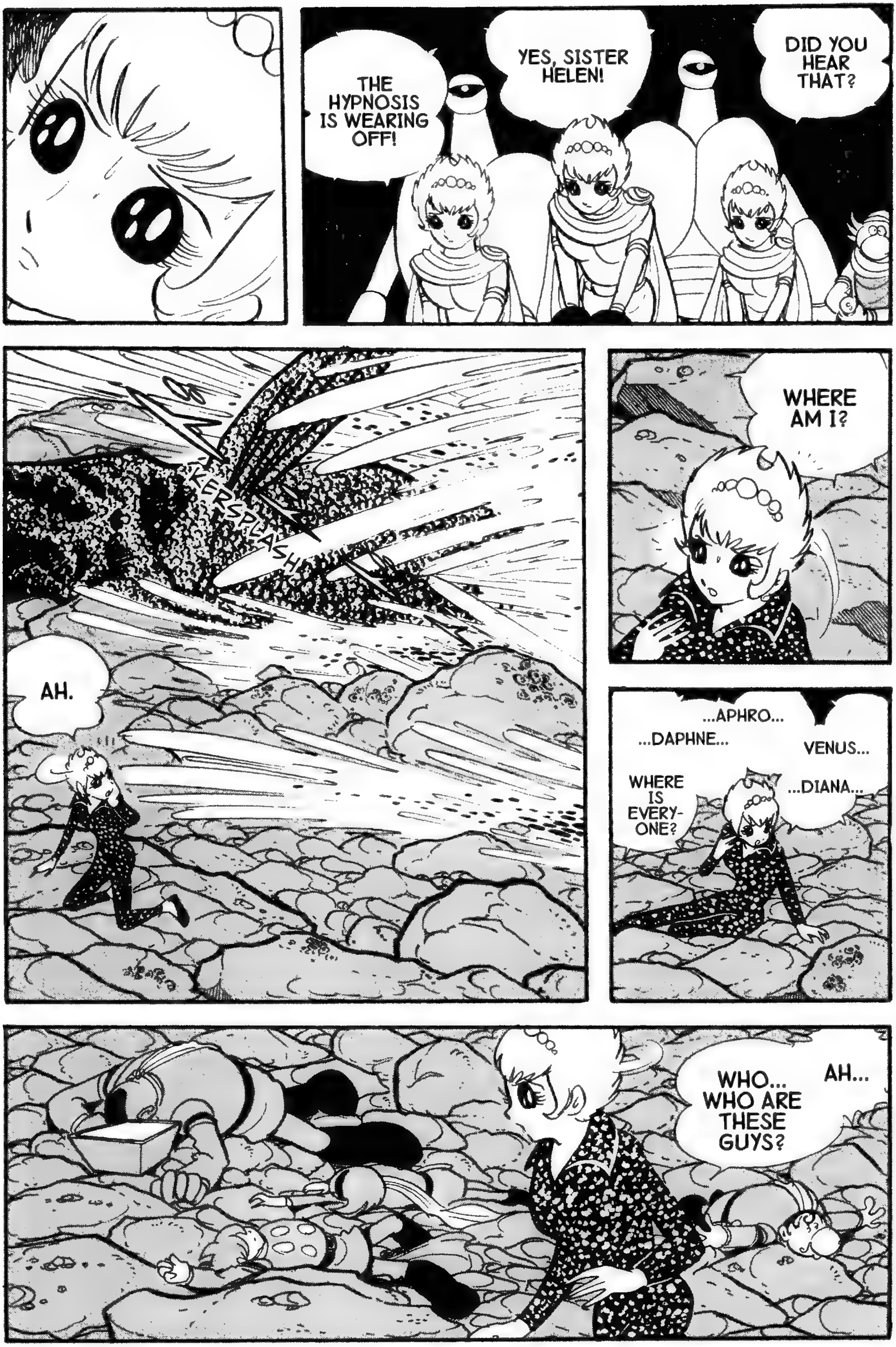

COME ON! THIS WAY.
EITHER WAY, WE SHOULD GET MOVING.
IF IT'S NOT THEM, IT MAY BE THAT MYSTERIOUS WOMAN THAT JUST SAVED US.
HMM.
THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN AROUND HERE, RIGHT?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE UNDER-DWELLER?
WHERE ARE THEY?
THERE WERE TWO PEOPLE DRESSED ENTIRELY IN BLACK!
BAH! THERE'S NOWHERE FOR THEM TO RUN AROUND HERE.
IT'S... HIM!
FWISH
SOME-ONE'S COMING.
HURRY... HURRY!

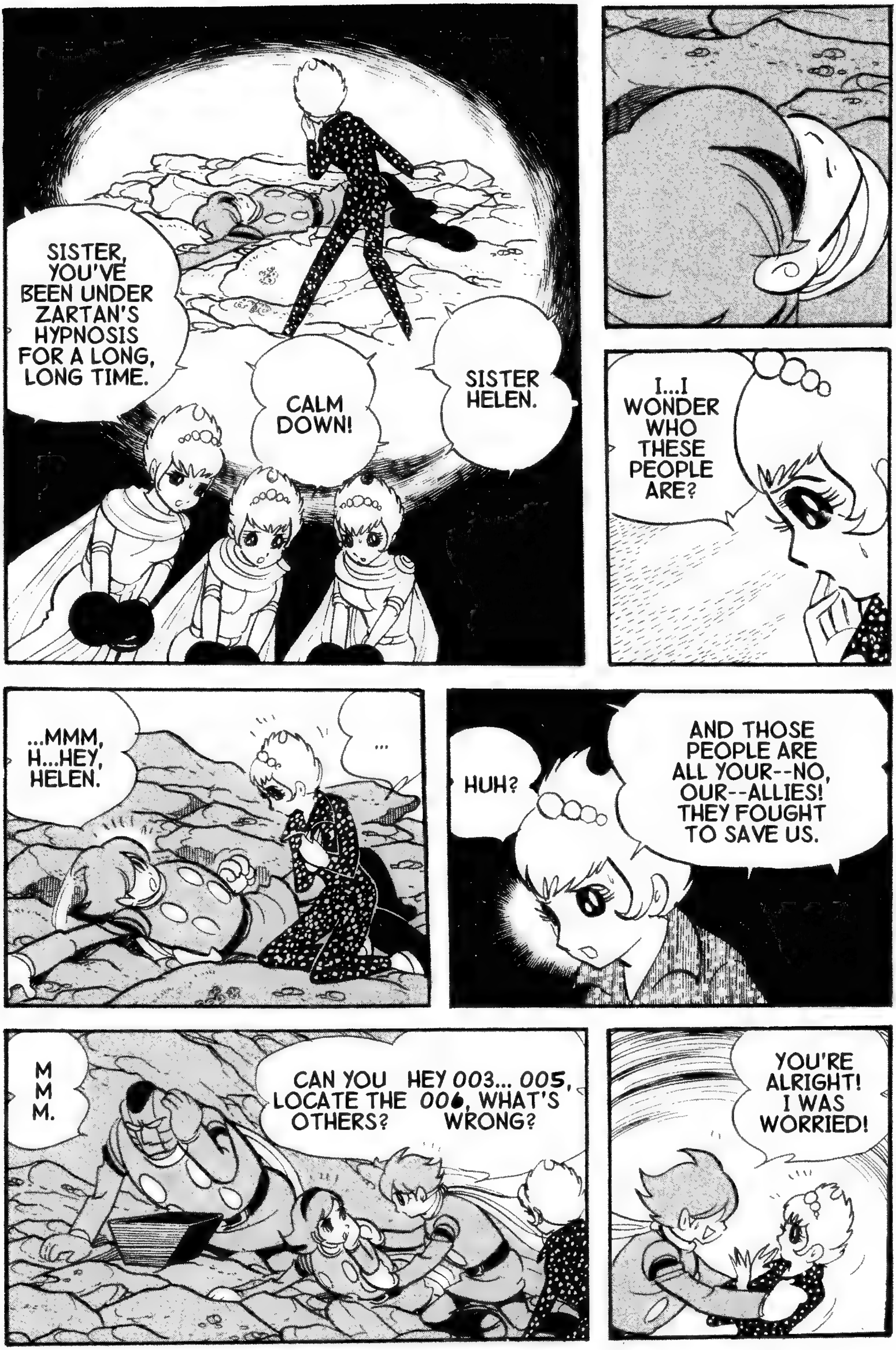

WHO'S BEEN HERE? TELL ME NOW!
WHA-WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT WAS NOISY OUTSIDE...
AND WE WERE SCARED...
HMM... WHY ARE YOU SWEATING?
TH-THIS IS...
MR. BOGART, WE'VE CAPTURED A CYBORG WITH THE NUMBER 004. WE'RE HOLDING HIM HERE.
004, EH? THAT'S THE ONE WHO ESCAPED WITH MY PRECIOUS VENUS!
HMM...?
HOLD 004 IN THE CENTRAL COLISEUM.
DON'T MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR HIS FRIENDS TO FIND HIM.
...HU HU HU.
THE OTHER FOUR ESCAPEES WILL COME RUNNING FOR HIM ANY TIME NOW.
EXCELLENT! WE'LL USE HIM AS BAIT.

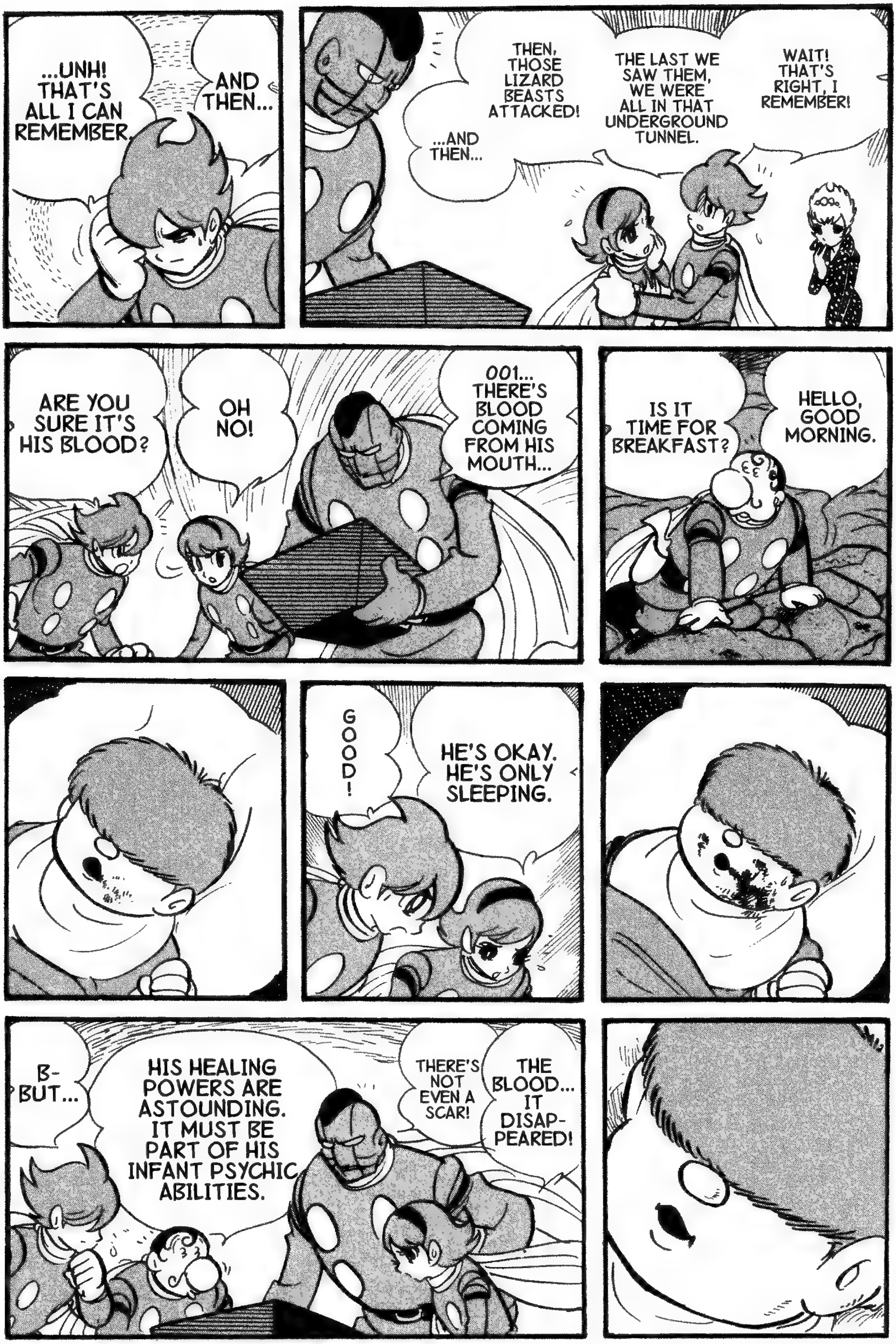

WE SHOULDN'T TELL THEM WHERE 004 IS. IT'S A TRAP!
WE CAN'T RISK HIM. THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
I'M GOING TO GO.
BE CAREFUL, DIANA!
ARRIVE AT THE CENTRAL COLISEUM AT 2 O'CLOCK TODAY TO WITNESS FIRSTHAND...
...THE BRUTAL EXECUTION OF TRAITOROUS CYBORG...
004!
HMM.
I'M TOO LATE!
THEY'RE GONE!
HEH HEH HEH. IT LOOKS LIKE 004 HAS MORE FRIENDS THAN I SUSPECTED.
AAH.

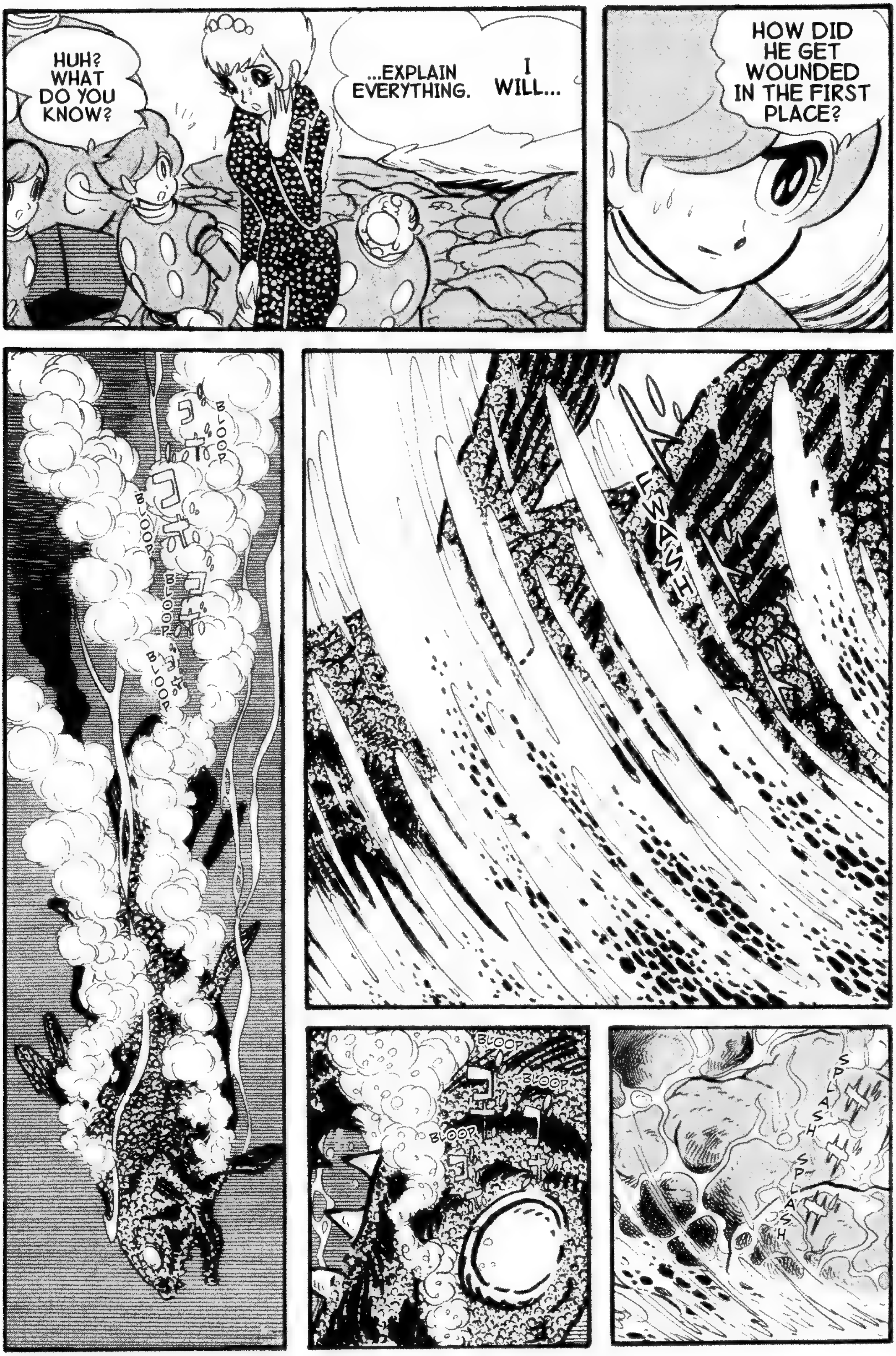

TREACHEROUS WOMAN!
I SHOULD SHOOT YOU NOW...
TAK TAK TAK
FWAP FWAP
I'LL JUST ADD YOU TO THE TRAP! 004 CAN FIGHT FOR HIMSELF.
BUT YOU... ...YOU WILL NEED RESCUING! GET UP!!
......
DON'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO CONTACT YOUR SISTERS.
THEY'RE PROBABLY IN CAPTIVITY RIGHT NOW, ANYWAY.
...I UNDERSTAND.
HMPH. THAT'S RIGHT, YOU ALL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER'S WILL.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO REBEL AGAINST ME?

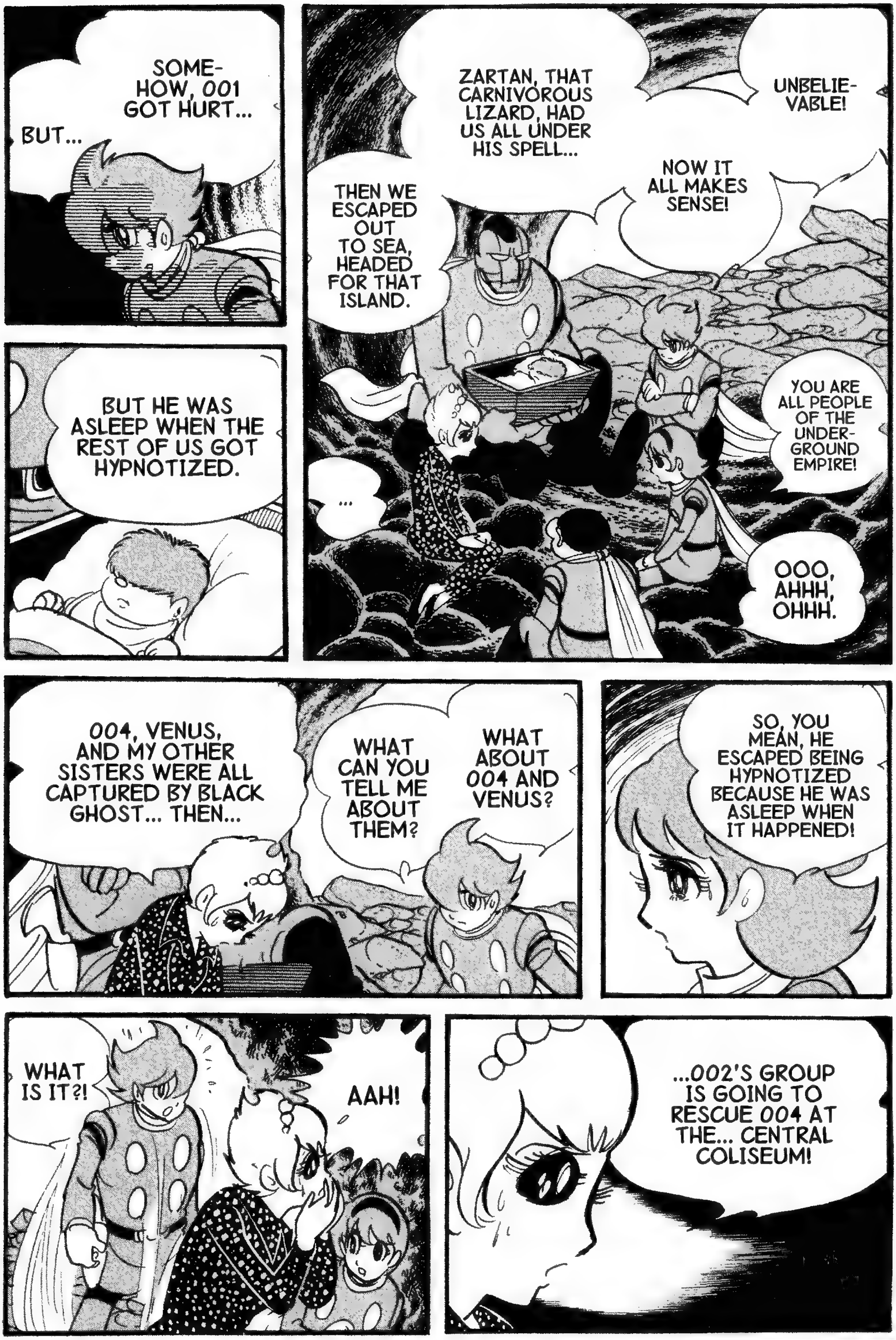

IS THAT IT? AM I RIGHT?
YE... YES.
I'M AFRAID 004 HAS CONTAMINATED ALL OF YOUR THOUGHTS WHEN HE CAPTURED VENUS. THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH YOU TELEPATHS!
......
HMM.
AH.
HEH, I CAN'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY.
YOU PUPPET!
TAKE THEM TO THE CENTRAL COLISEUM!
YES SIR.
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?
...
HUH?

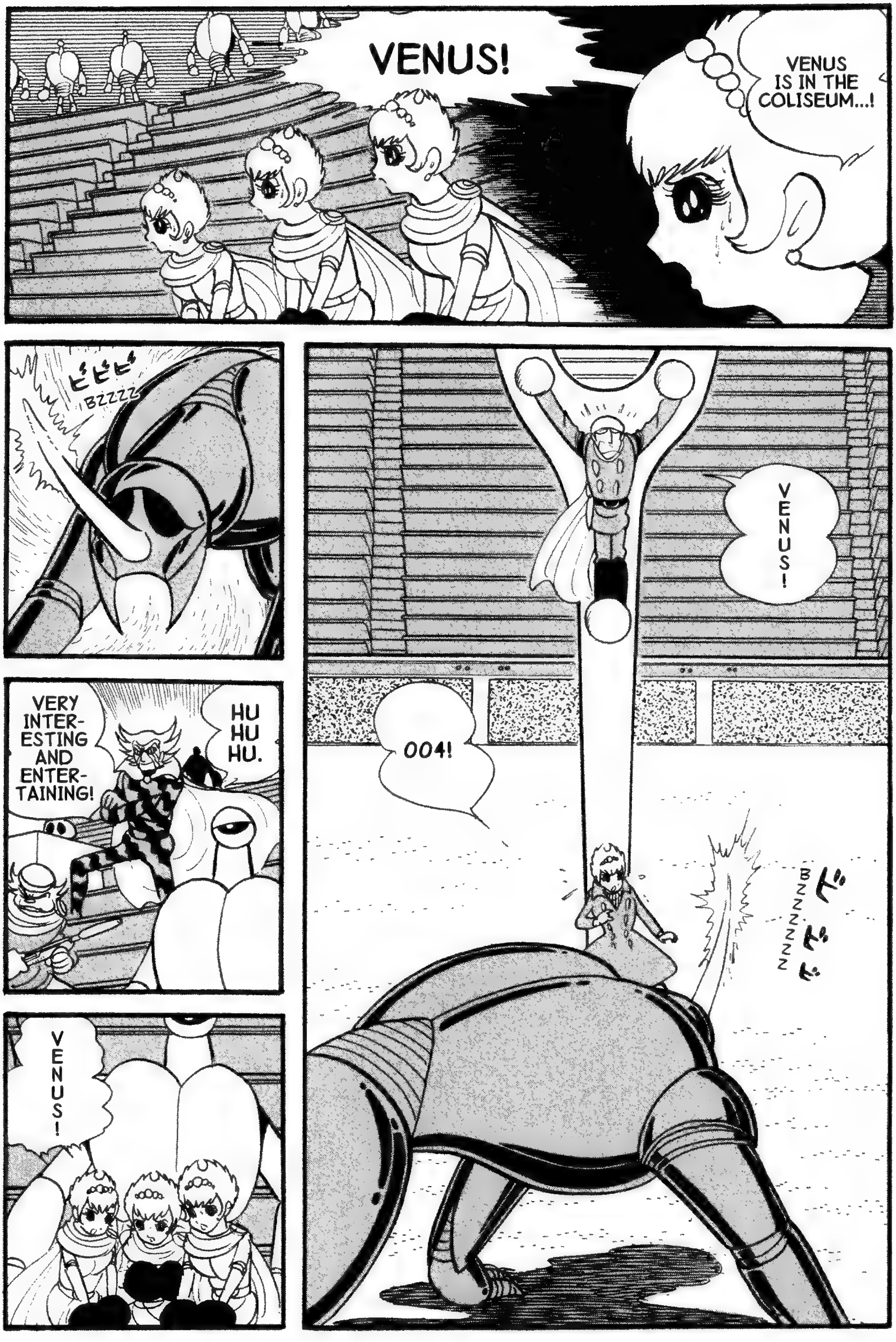

DID YOU HEAR THAT?
YES, SISTER HELEN!
THE HYPNOSIS IS WEARING OFF!
WHERE AM I?
...APHRO...
VENUS...
...DIANA...
...DAPHNE...
WHERE IS EVERYONE?
KERSPLASH
AH.
AH...
WHO... WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

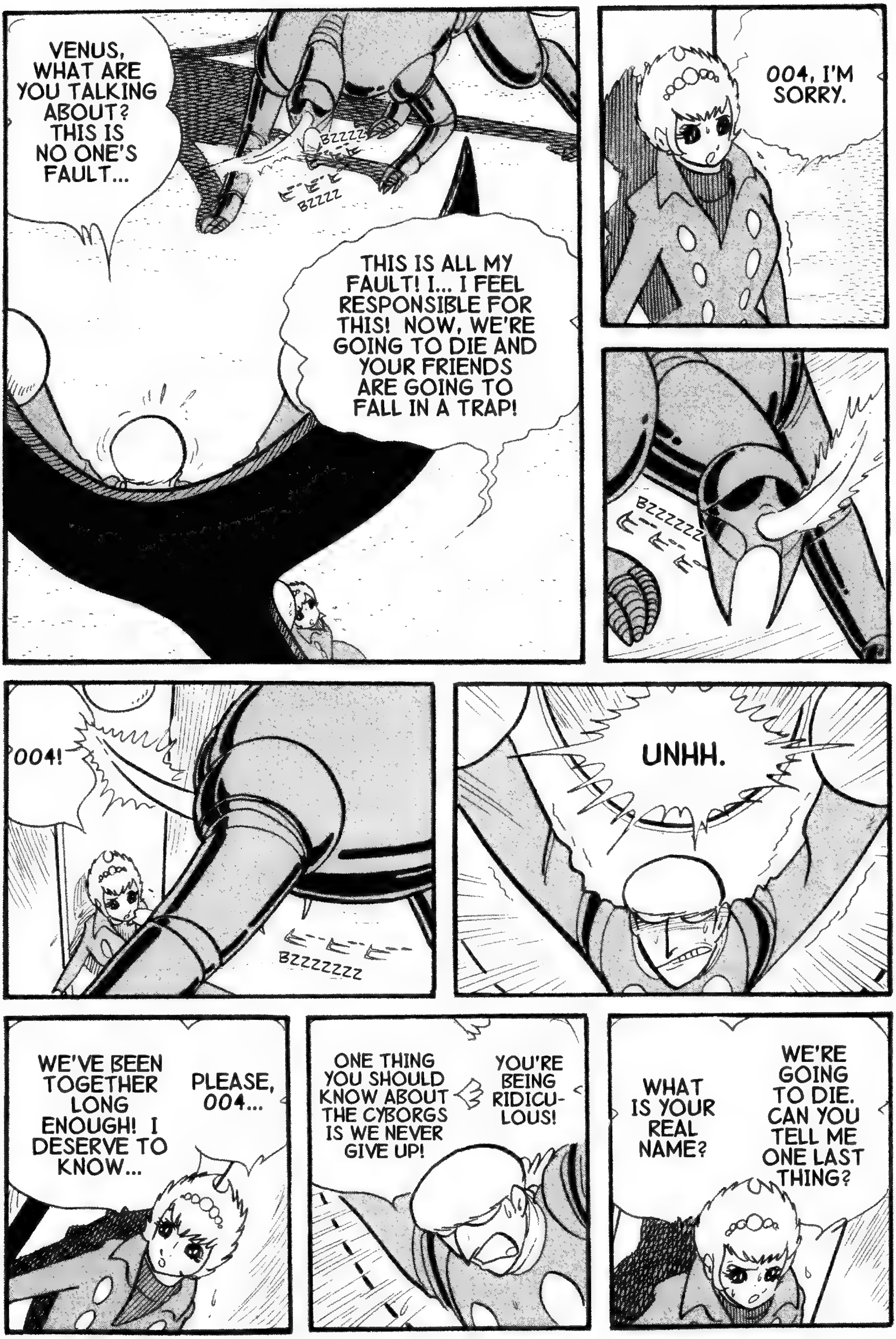

I...I WONDER WHO THESE PEOPLE ARE?
SISTER HELEN.
CALM DOWN!
SISTER, YOU'VE BEEN UNDER ZARTAN'S HYPNOSIS FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
AND THOSE PEOPLE ARE ALL YOUR--NO, OUR--ALLIES! THEY FOUGHT TO SAVE US.
HUH?
...
...MMM, H...HEY, HELEN.
YOU'RE ALRIGHT! I WAS WORRIED!
HEY 003... 005, 006, WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN YOU LOCATE THE OTHERS?
MMM.

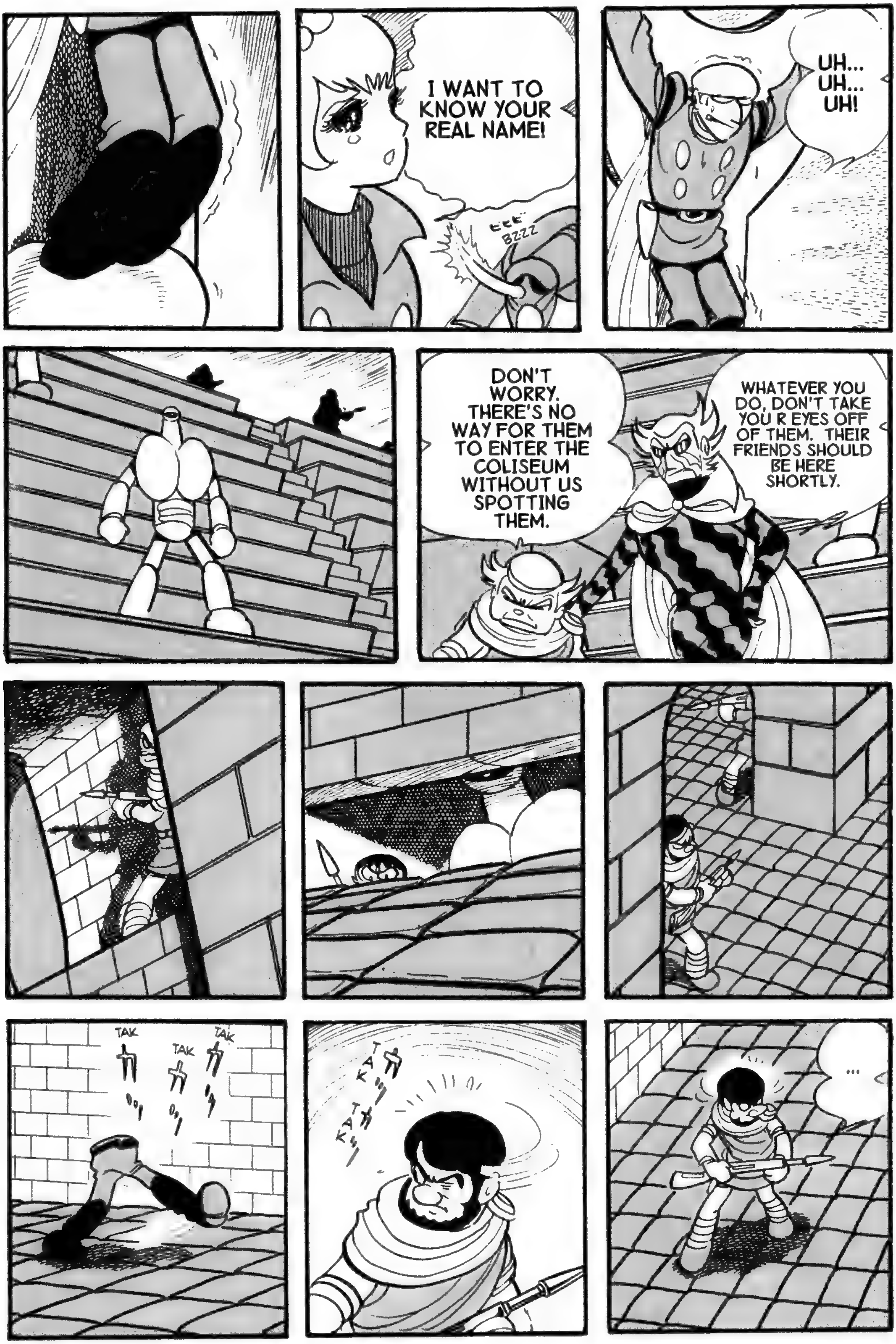

WAIT! THAT'S RIGHT, I REMEMBER!
THE LAST WE SAW THEM, WE WERE ALL IN THAT UNDERGROUND TUNNEL.
THEN, THOSE LIZARD BEASTS ATTACKED!
...AND THEN...
AND THEN...
...UNH! THAT'S ALL I CAN REMEMBER.
HELLO, GOOD MORNING.
IS IT TIME FOR BREAKFAST?
001... THERE'S BLOOD COMING FROM HIS MOUTH...
OH NO!
ARE YOU SURE IT'S HIS BLOOD?
HE'S OKAY. HE'S ONLY SLEEPING.
GOOD!
THE BLOOD... IT DISAPPEARED!
THERE'S NOT EVEN A SCAR!
HIS HEALING POWERS ARE ASTOUNDING. IT MUST BE PART OF HIS INFANT PSYCHIC ABILITIES.
B-BUT...

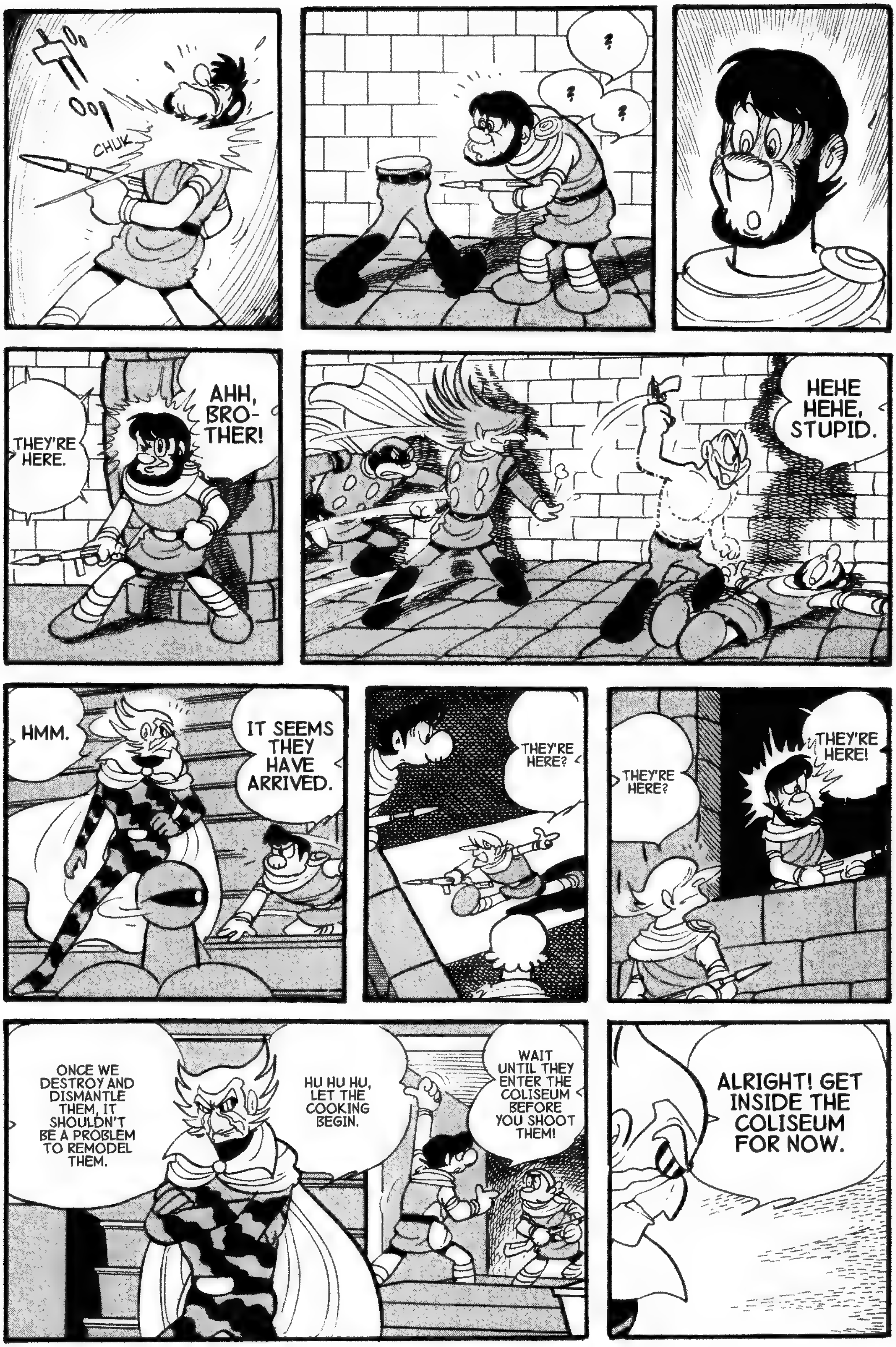

HOW DID HE GET WOUNDED IN THE FIRST PLACE?
I WILL...
...EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
FWASH
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
SPLASH
SPLASH
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP

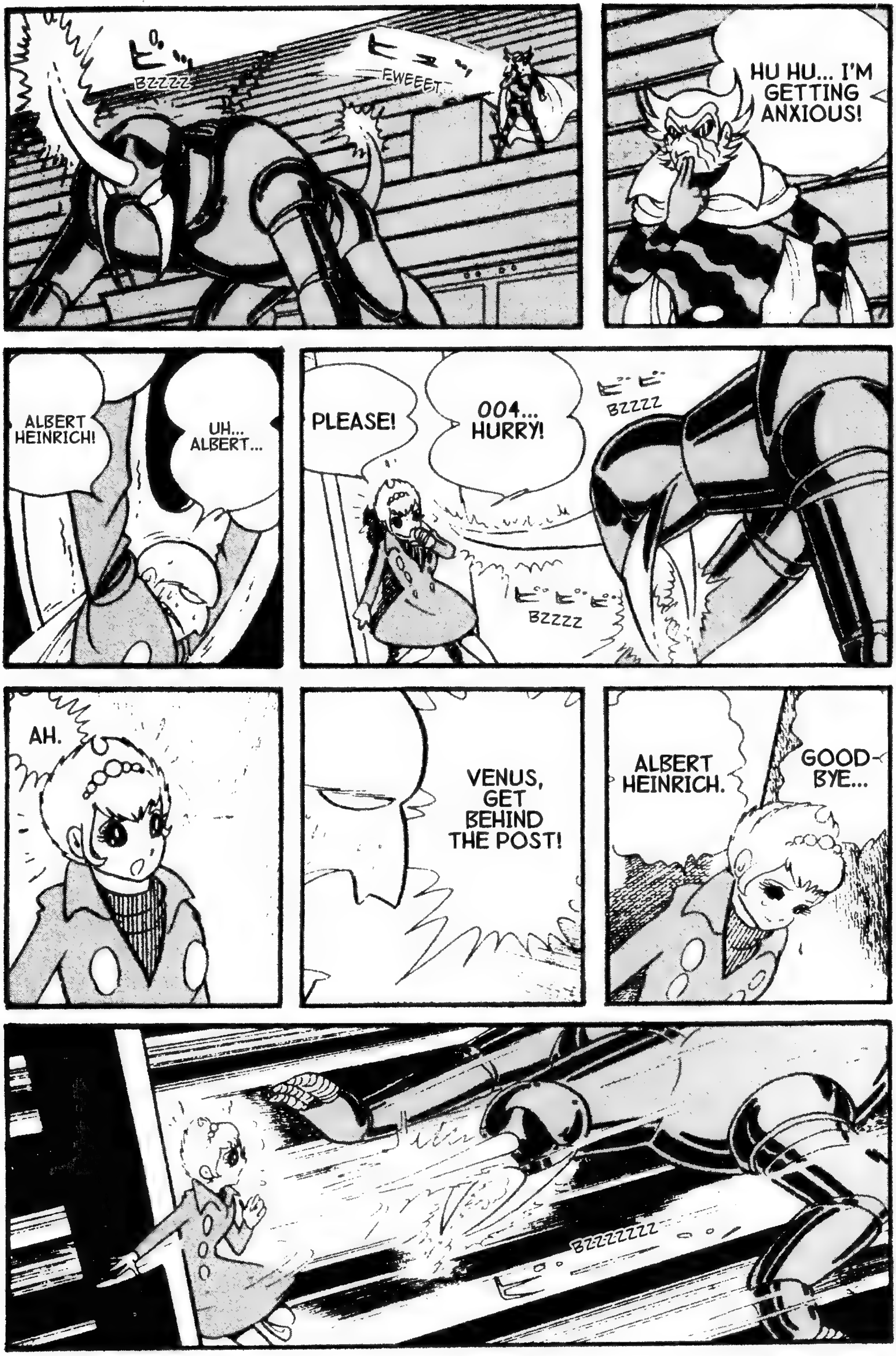

ZARTAN, THAT CARNIVOROUS LIZARD, HAD US ALL UNDER HIS SPELL...
THEN WE ESCAPED OUT TO SEA, HEADED FOR THAT ISLAND.
UNBELIEVABLE!
NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
YOU ARE ALL PEOPLE OF THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE!
...
OOO, AHHH, OHHH.
SOMEHOW, 001 GOT HURT... BUT...
BUT HE WAS ASLEEP WHEN THE REST OF US GOT HYPNOTIZED.
SO, YOU MEAN, HE ESCAPED BEING HYPNOTIZED BECAUSE HE WAS ASLEEP WHEN IT HAPPENED!
WHAT ABOUT 004 AND VENUS?
WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT THEM?
004, VENUS, AND MY OTHER SISTERS WERE ALL CAPTURED BY BLACK GHOST... THEN...
...002'S GROUP IS GOING TO RESCUE 004 AT THE... CENTRAL COLISEUM!
AAH!
WHAT IS IT?!

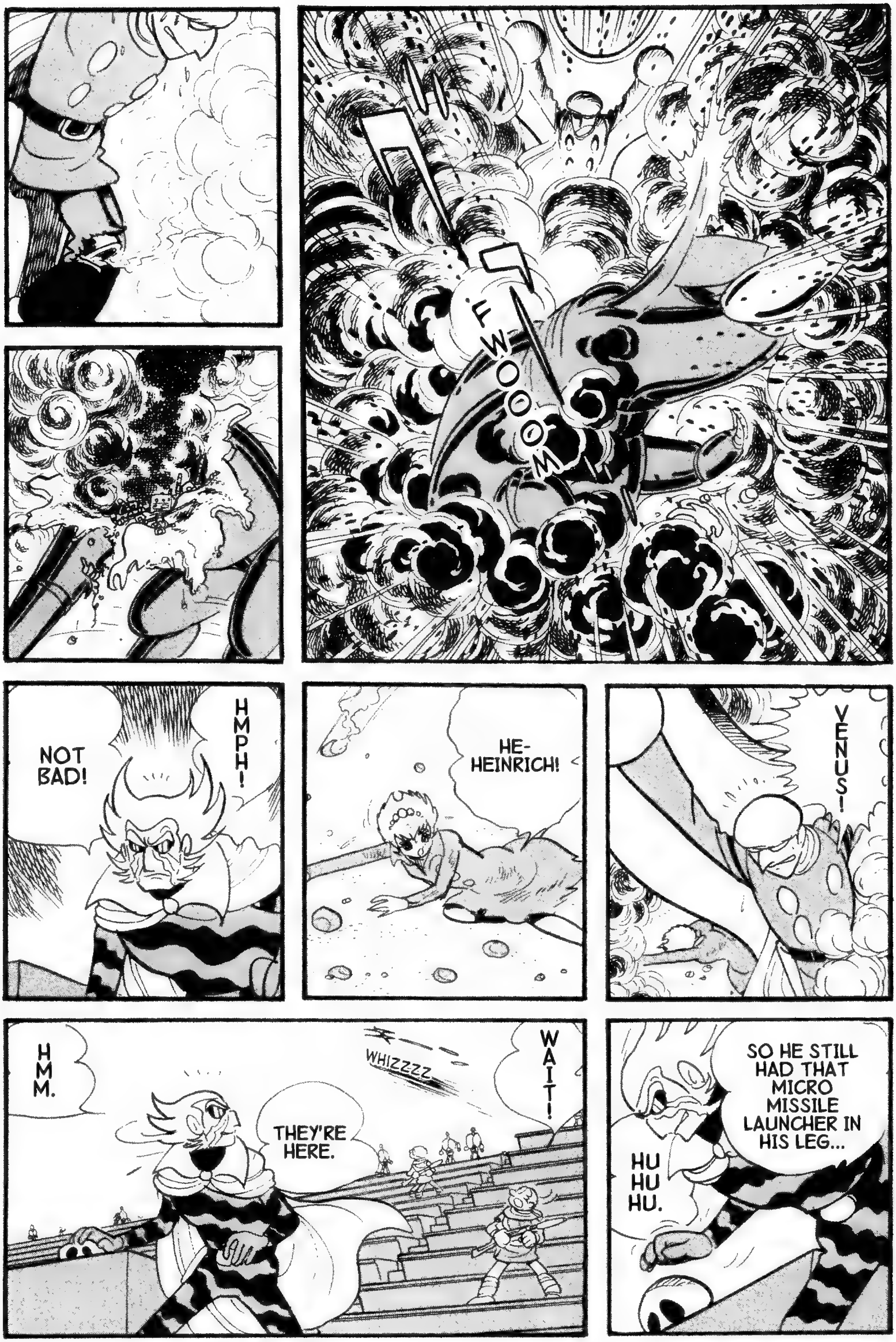

VENUS!
VENUS IS IN THE COLISEUM...!
ビビビ
BZZZZ
VERY INTERESTING AND ENTERTAINING!
HU HU HU.
VENUS!
VENUS!
004!
ビビビ
BZZZZZZ

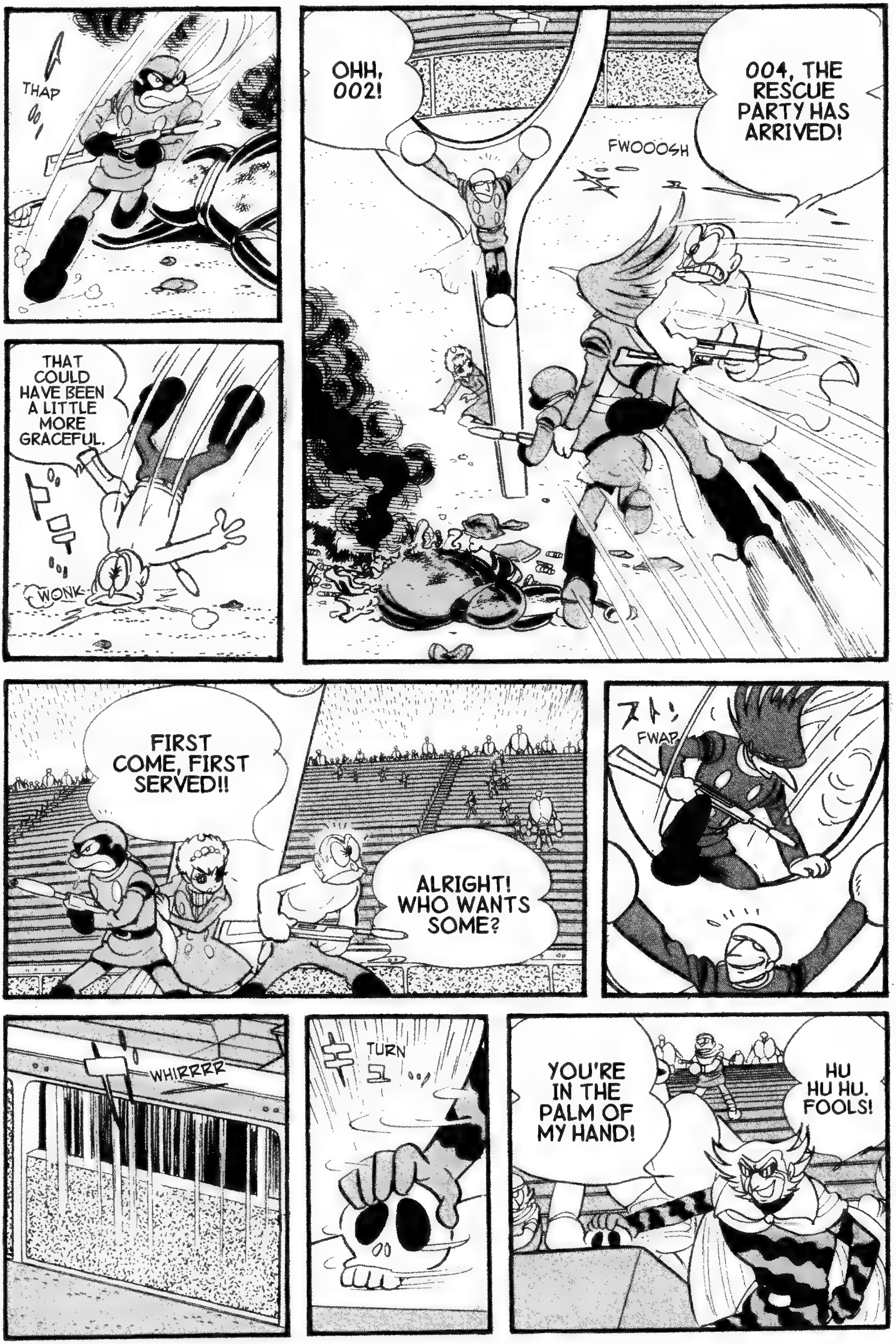

004, I'M SORRY.
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT! I... I FEEL RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS! NOW, WE'RE GOING TO DIE AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE GOING TO FALL IN A TRAP!
VENUS, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THIS IS NO ONE'S FAULT...
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
BZZZZZZ
UNHH.
004!
BZZZZZZZ
WE'RE GOING TO DIE. CAN YOU TELL ME ONE LAST THING?
WHAT IS YOUR REAL NAME?
YOU'RE BEING RIDICULOUS!
ONE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CYBORGS IS WE NEVER GIVE UP!
PLEASE, 004...
WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH! I DESERVE TO KNOW...

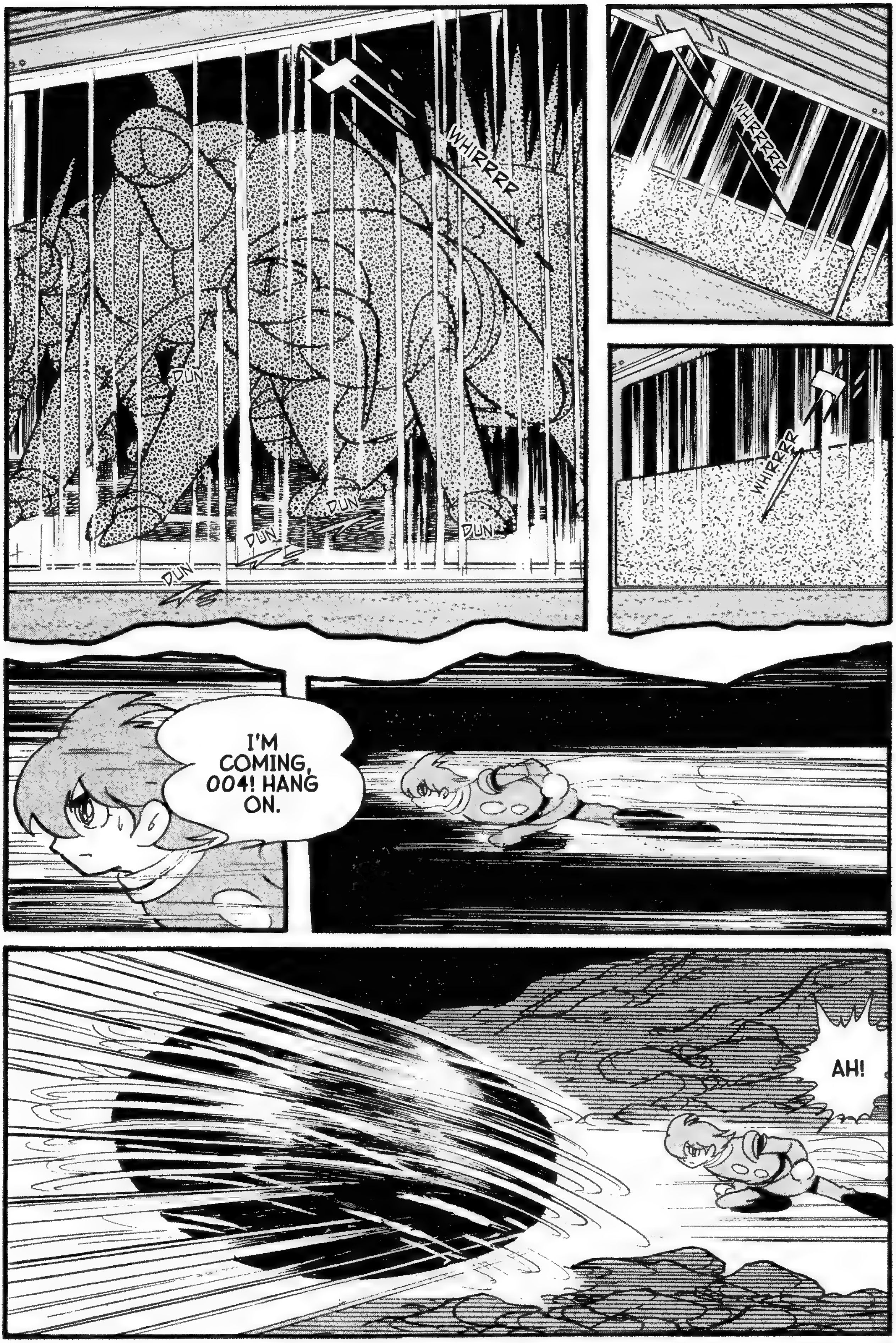

I WANT TO KNOW YOUR REAL NAME!
EEE BZZZ
UH... UH... UH!
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T TAKE YOU R EYES OFF OF THEM. THEIR FRIENDS SHOULD BE HERE SHORTLY.
DON'T WORRY. THERE'S NO WAY FOR THEM TO ENTER THE COLISEUM WITHOUT US SPOTTING THEM.
TAK TAK TAK
TAK TAK
...

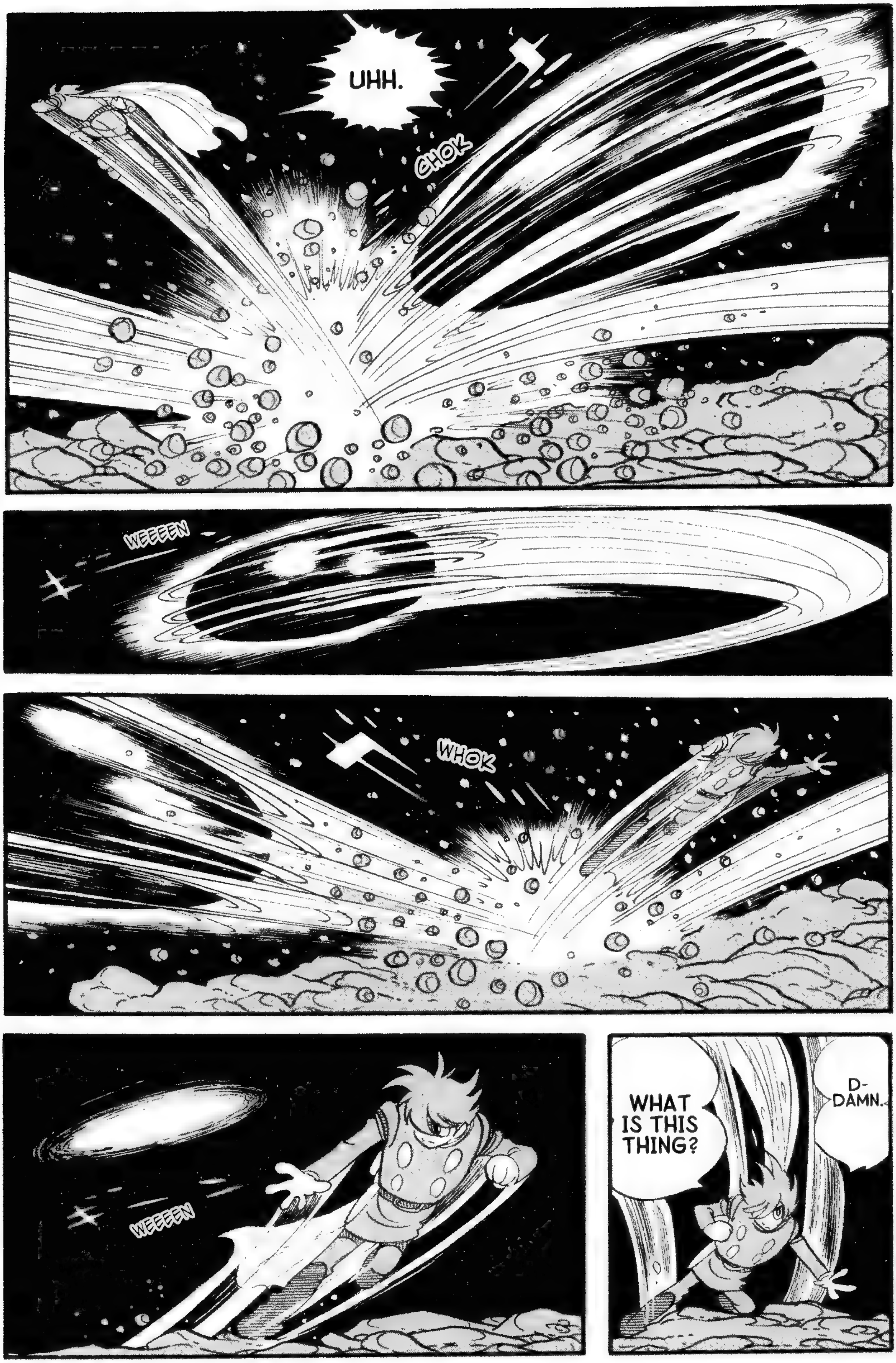

CHUK
?
?
?
AHH, BROTHER!
THEY'RE HERE.
HEHE HEHE, STUPID.
HMM.
IT SEEMS THEY HAVE ARRIVED.
THEY'RE HERE?
THEY'RE HERE?
THEY'RE HERE!
ONCE WE DESTROY AND DISMANTLE THEM, IT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM TO REMODEL THEM.
HU HU HU, LET THE COOKING BEGIN.
WAIT UNTIL THEY ENTER THE COLISEUM BEFORE YOU SHOOT THEM!
ALRIGHT! GET INSIDE THE COLISEUM FOR NOW.

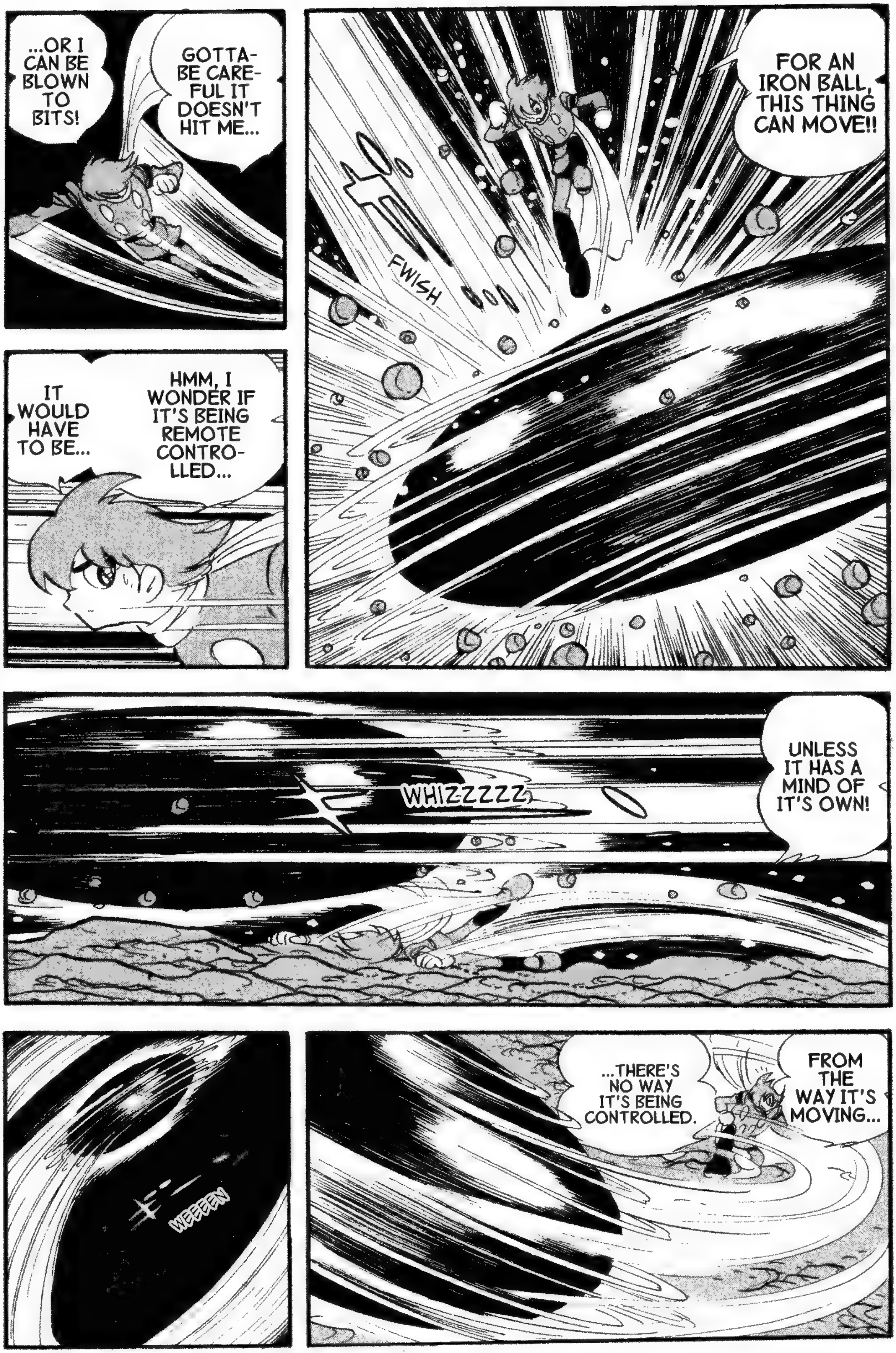

HU HU... I'M GETTING ANXIOUS!
FWEEEET
BZZZZ
004... HURRY!
PLEASE!
BZZZZ
BZZZZ
UH... ALBERT...
ALBERT HEINRICH!
GOOD-BYE...
ALBERT HEINRICH.
VENUS, GET BEHIND THE POST!
AH.
BZZZZZZZ

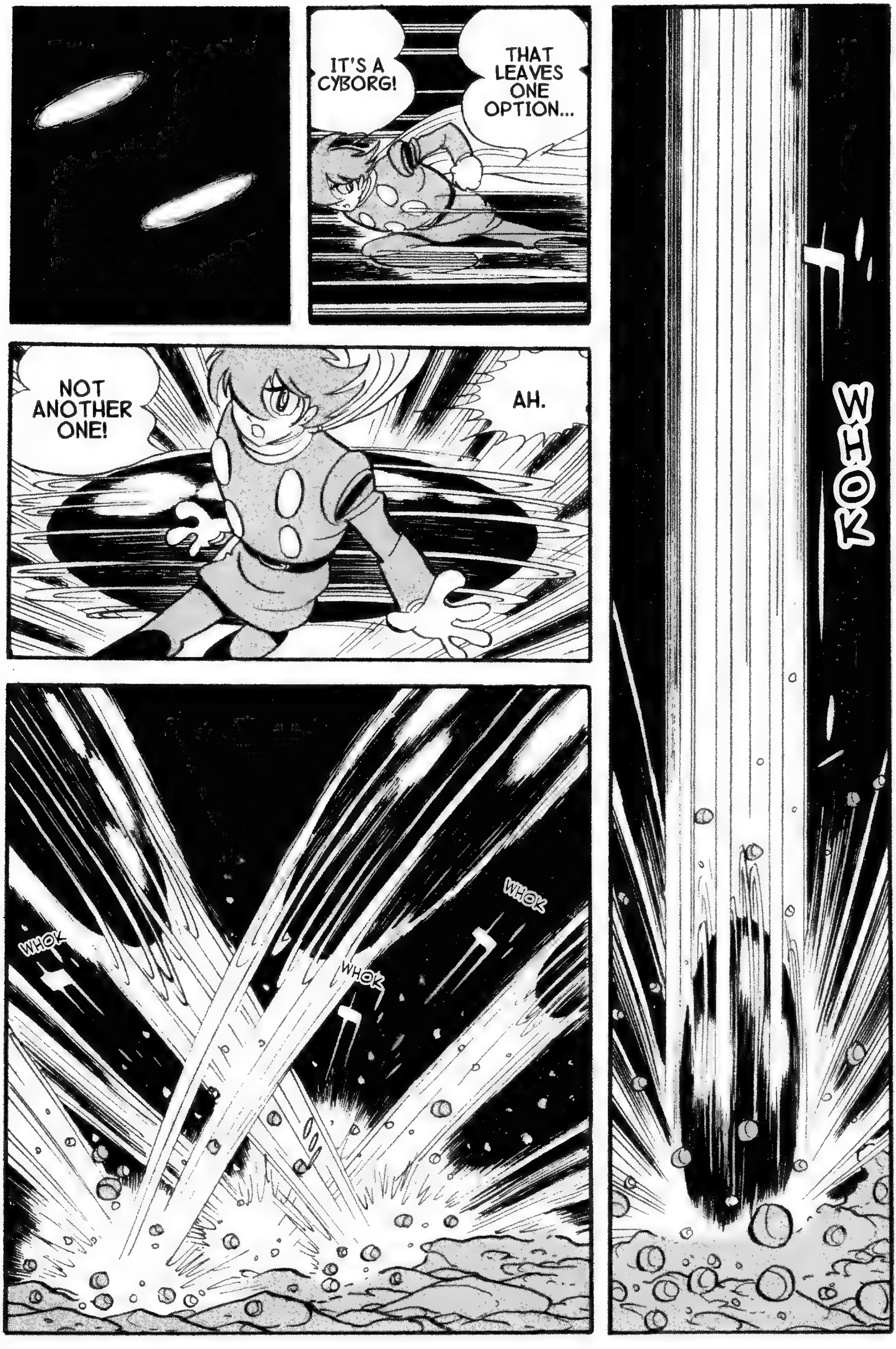

FWOOOM
VENUS!
HE-HEINRICH!
HMPH!
NOT BAD!
SO HE STILL HAD THAT MICRO MISSILE LAUNCHER IN HIS LEG...
HU HU HU.
WAIT!
WHIZZZZ
THEY'RE HERE.
HMM.

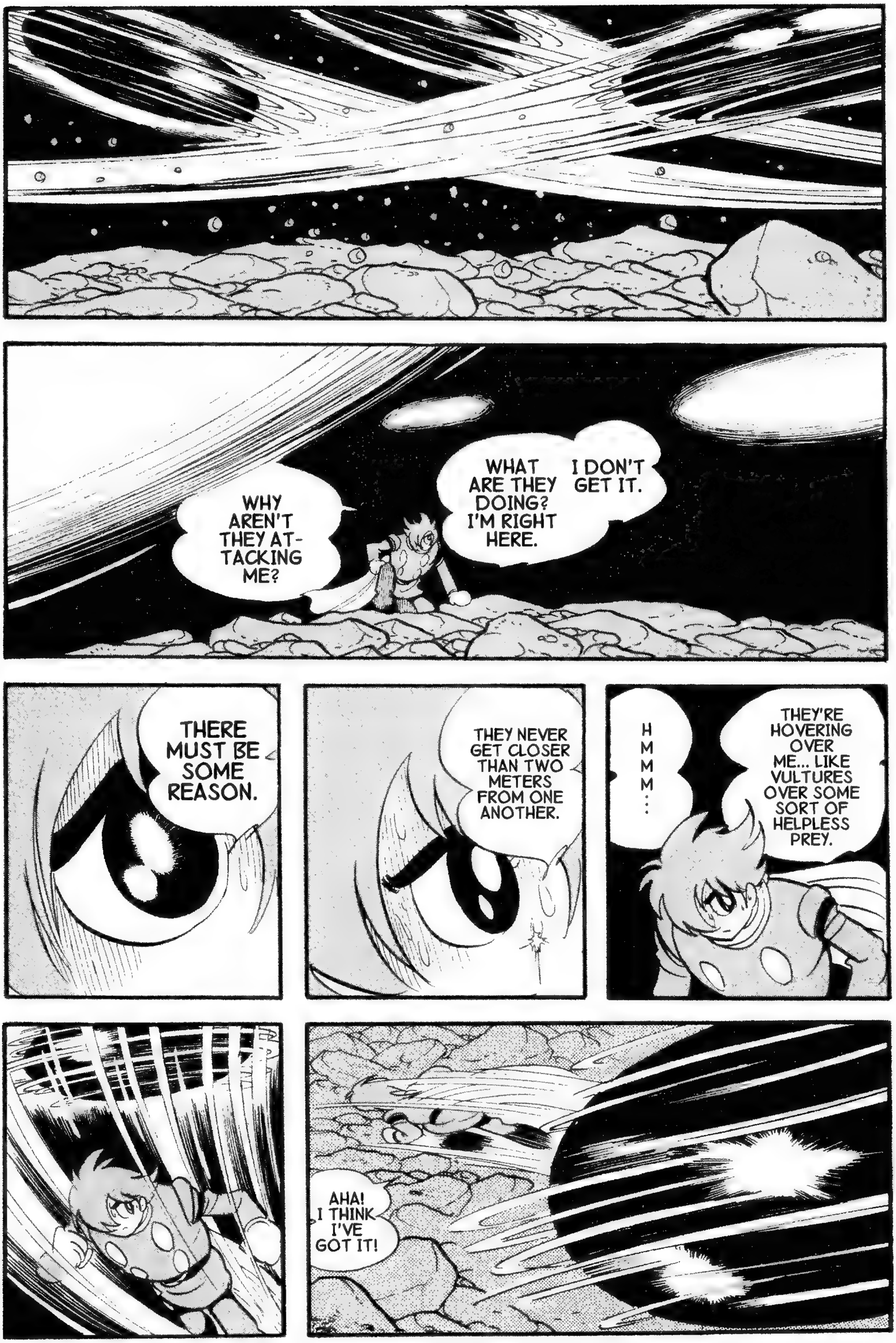

THAP
THAT COULD HAVE BEEN A LITTLE MORE GRACEFUL.
WONK
OHH, 002!
004, THE RESCUE PARTY HAS ARRIVED!
FWOOOSH
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!!
ALRIGHT! WHO WANTS SOME?
ストン
FWAP
WHIRRRR
TURN
YOU'RE IN THE PALM OF MY HAND!
HU HU HU. FOOLS!

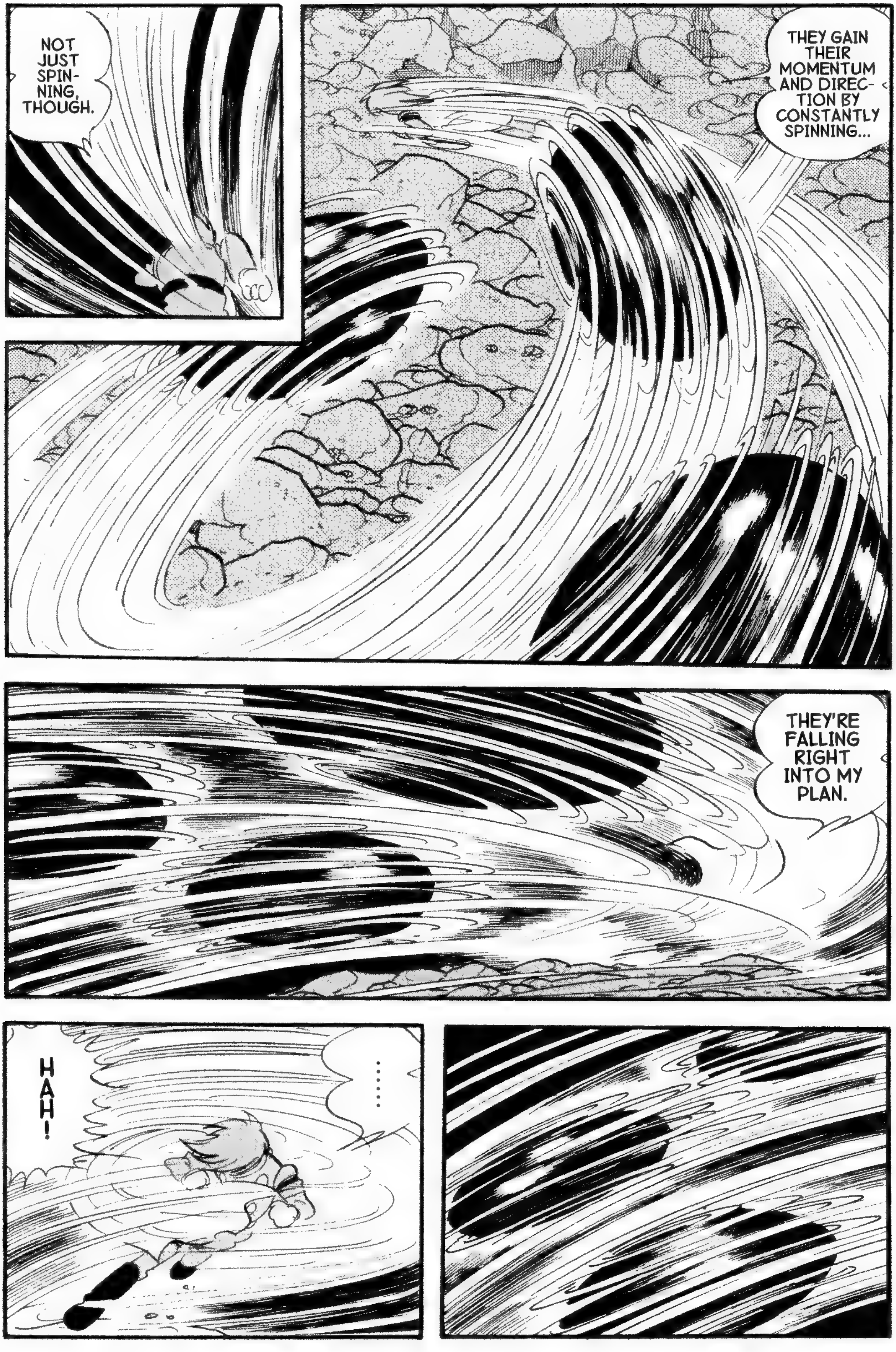

WHIRRRRR
WHIRRRR
WHIRRRR
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
DUN
I'M COMING, 004! HANG ON.
AH!

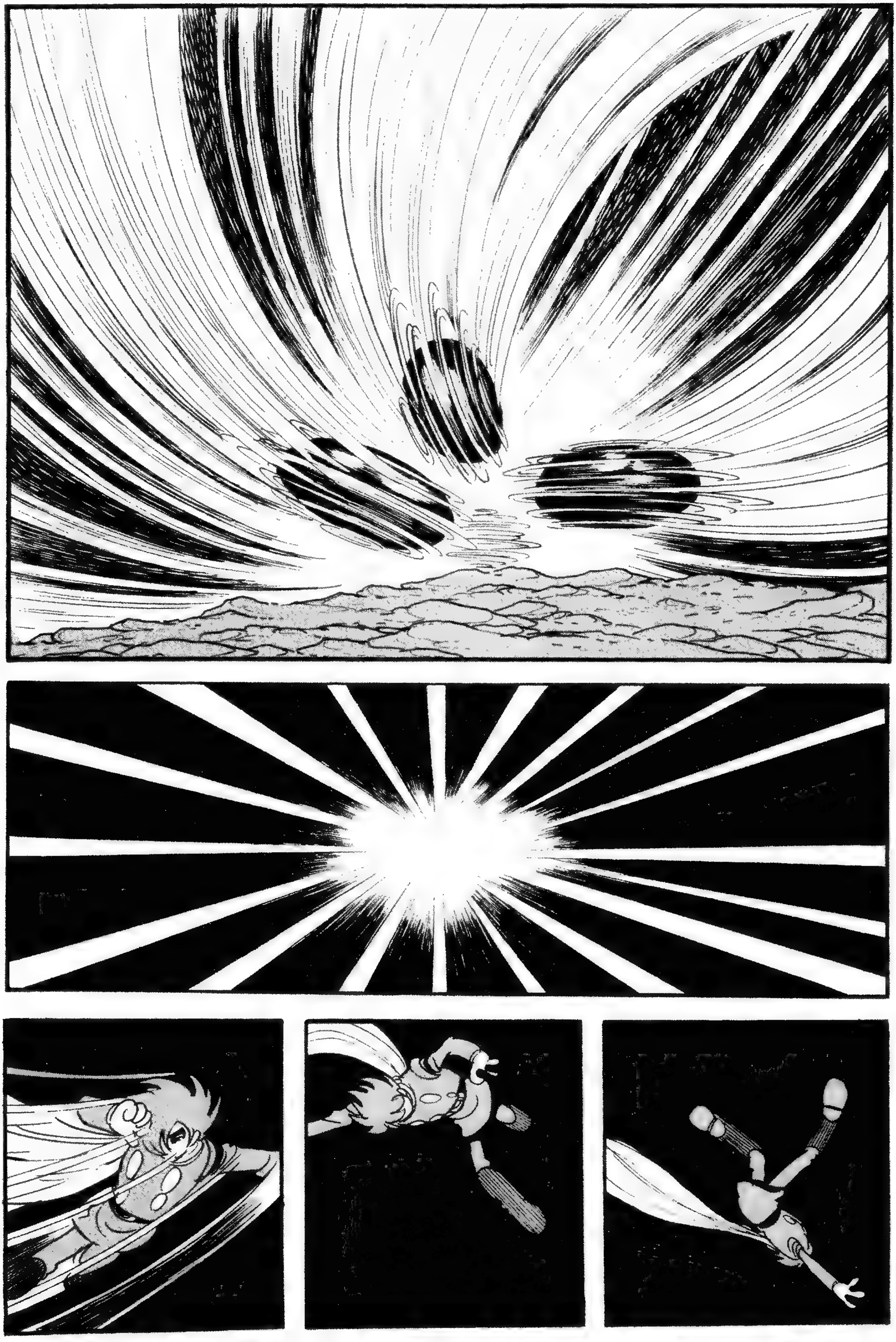

UHH.
CHOK
WEEEEN
WHOK
WEEEEN
WHAT IS THIS THING?
D-DAMN.

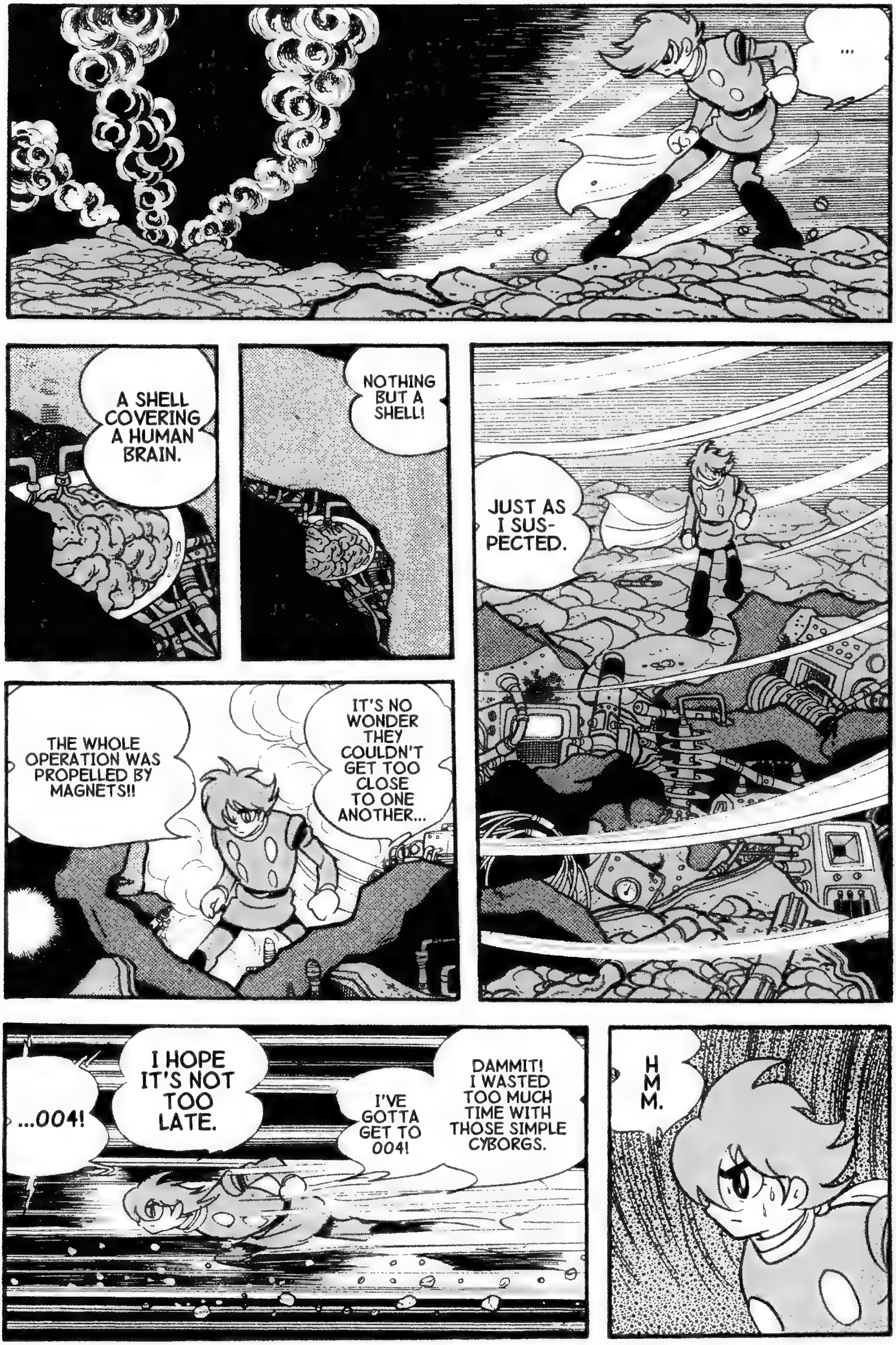

FOR AN IRON BALL, THIS THING CAN MOVE!!
FWISH
GOTTA-BE CAREFUL IT DOESN'T HIT ME...
...OR I CAN BE BLOWN TO BITS!
HMM, I WONDER IF IT'S BEING REMOTE CONTROLLED...
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE...
UNLESS IT HAS A MIND OF IT'S OWN!
WHIZZZZZ
FROM THE WAY IT'S MOVING...
...THERE'S NO WAY IT'S BEING CONTROLLED.
WEEEEN

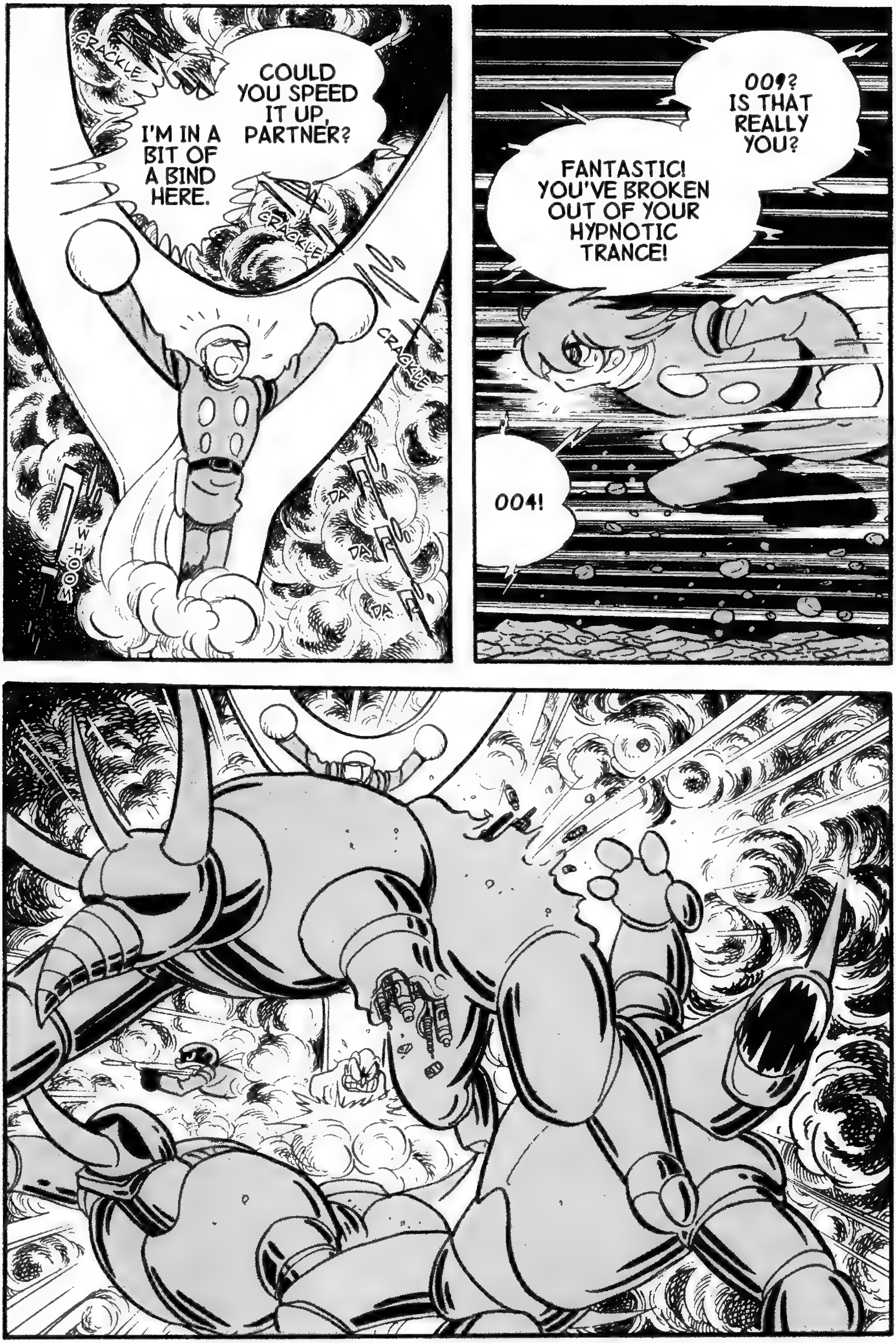

IT'S A CYBORG!
THAT LEAVES ONE OPTION...
NOT ANOTHER ONE!
AH.
WHOK
WHOK
WHOK
WHOK

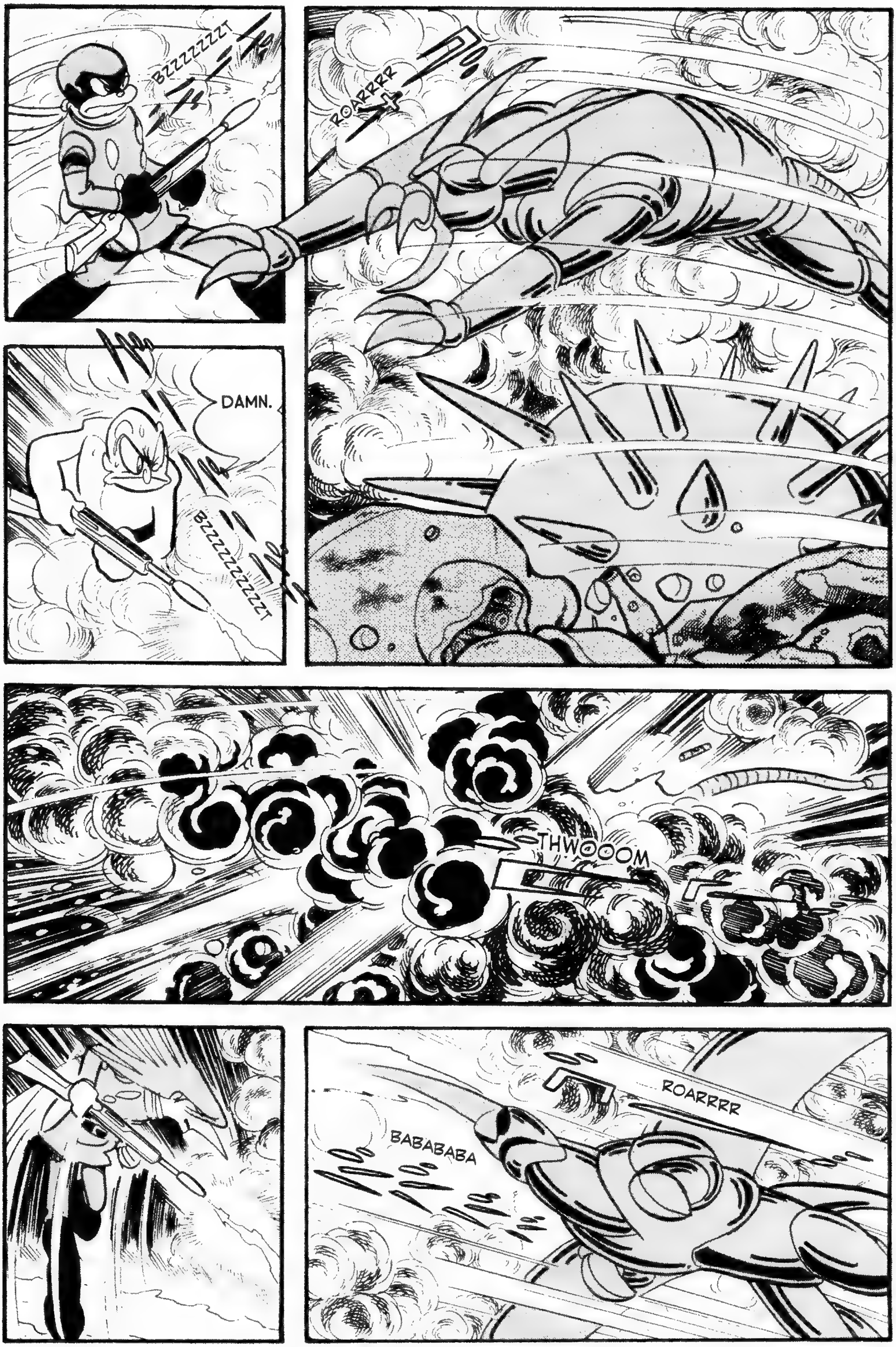

WHY AREN'T THEY ATTACKING ME?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING? I'M RIGHT HERE.
I DON'T GET IT.
THERE MUST BE SOME REASON.
THEY NEVER GET CLOSER THAN TWO METERS FROM ONE ANOTHER.
HMMM...
THEY'RE HOVERING OVER ME... LIKE VULTURES OVER SOME SORT OF HELPLESS PREY.
AHA! I THINK I'VE GOT IT!

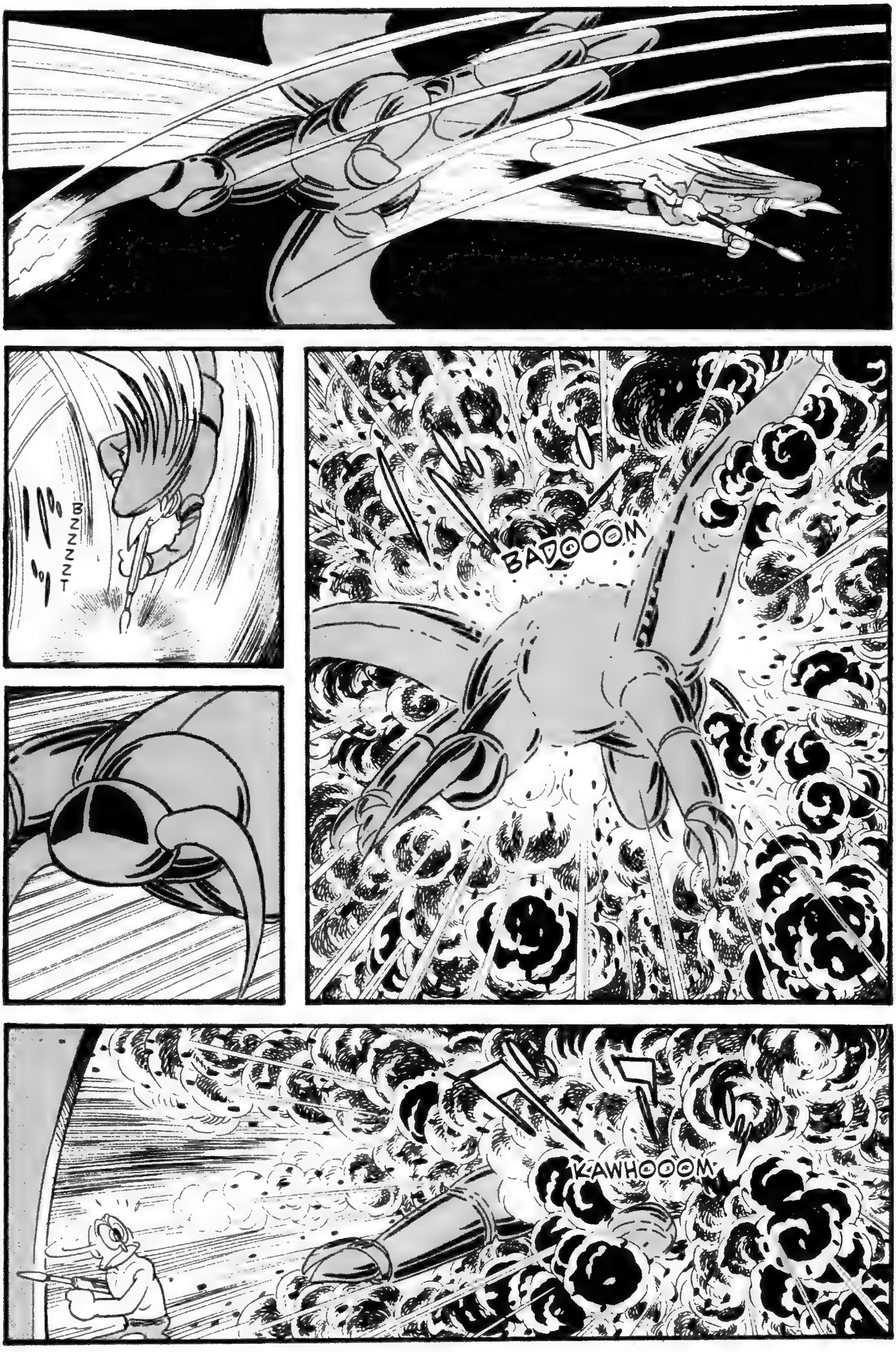

THEY GAIN THEIR MOMENTUM AND DIRECTION BY CONSTANTLY SPINNING...
NOT JUST SPINNING, THOUGH.
THEY'RE FALLING RIGHT INTO MY PLAN.
......
HAH!

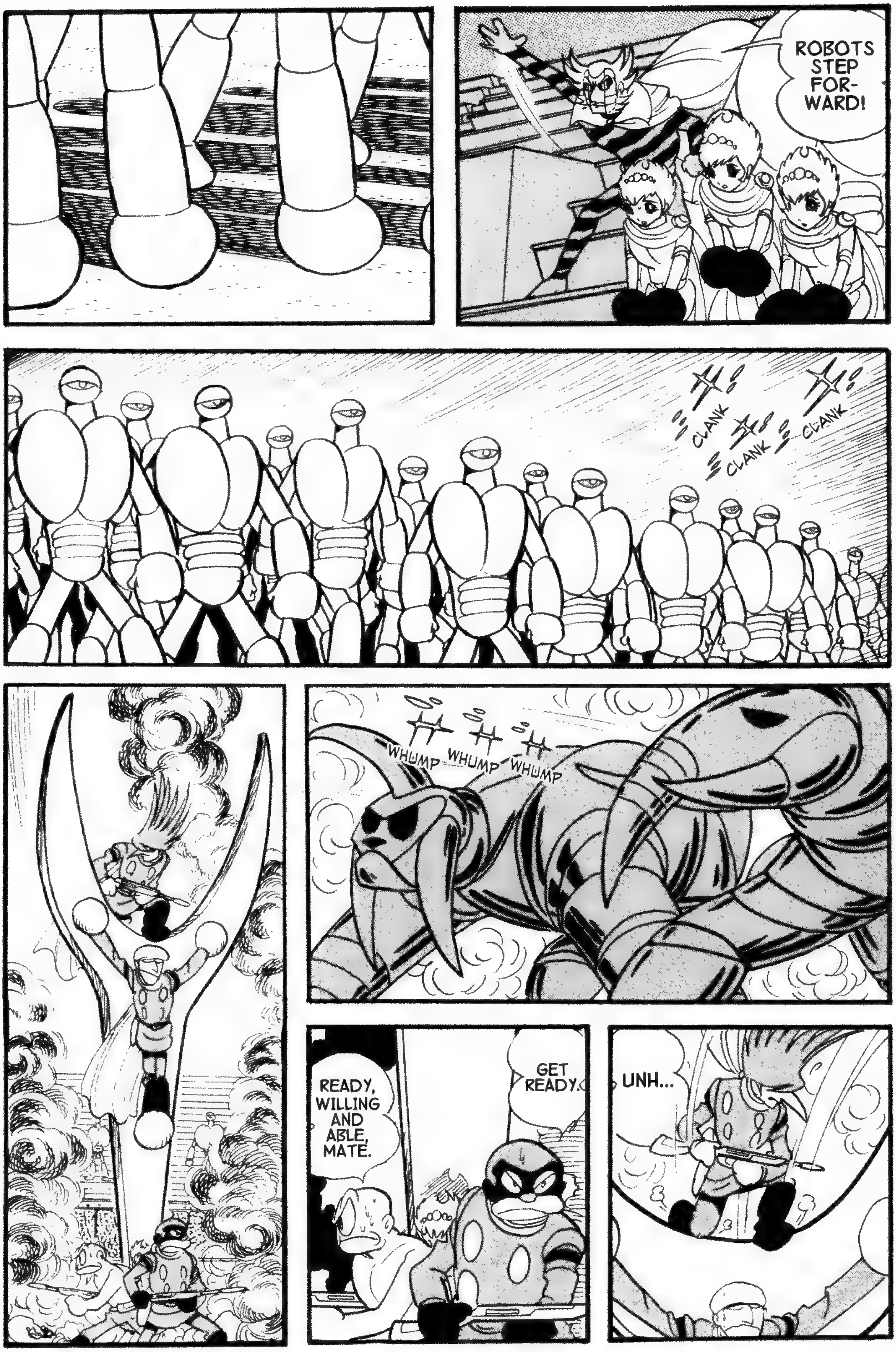


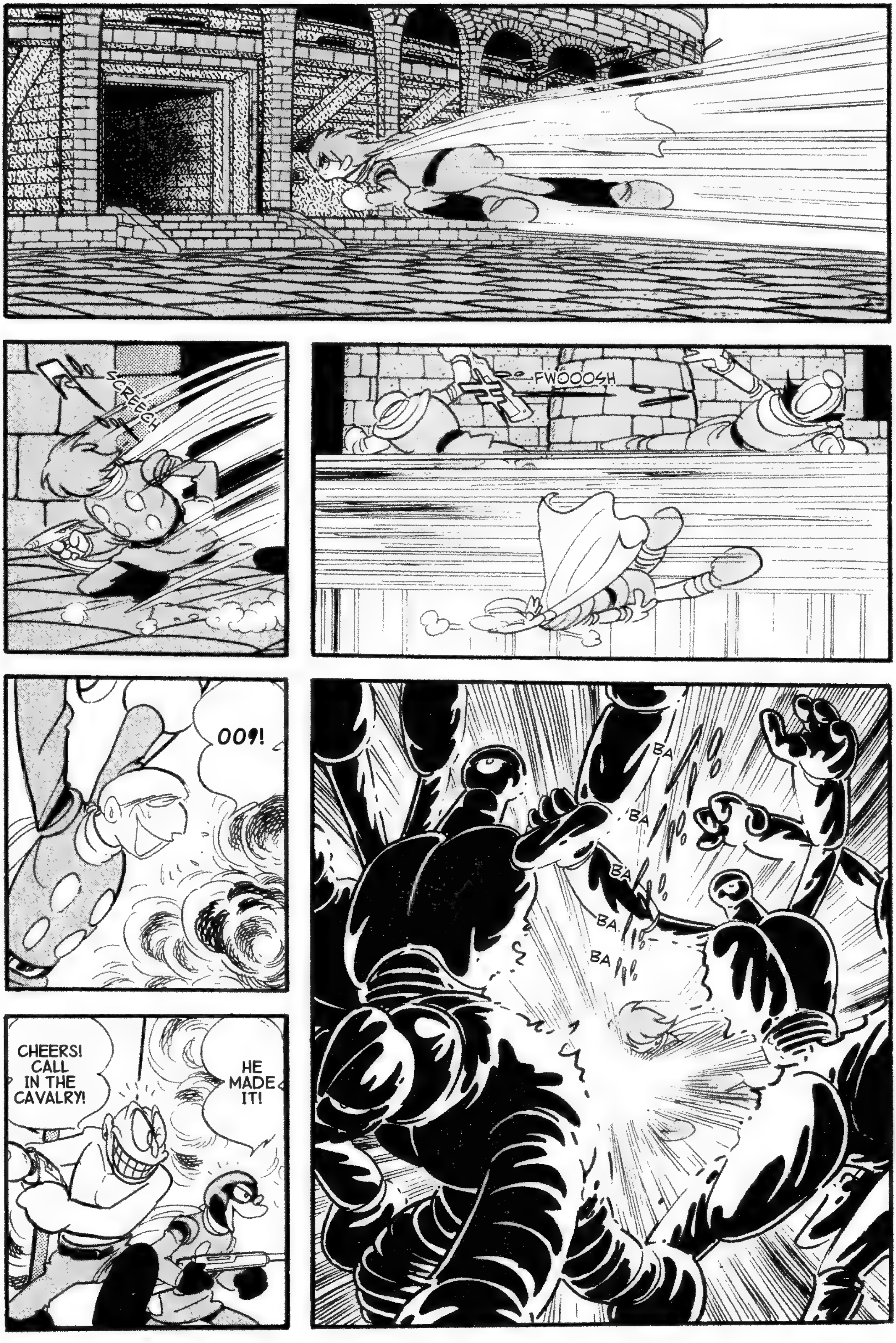

...
JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
NOTHING BUT A SHELL!
A SHELL COVERING A HUMAN BRAIN.
IT'S NO WONDER THEY COULDN'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ONE ANOTHER...
THE WHOLE OPERATION WAS PROPELLED BY MAGNETS!!
HMM.
DAMMIT! I WASTED TOO MUCH TIME WITH THOSE SIMPLE CYBORGS.
I'VE GOTTA GET TO 004!
I HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
...004!

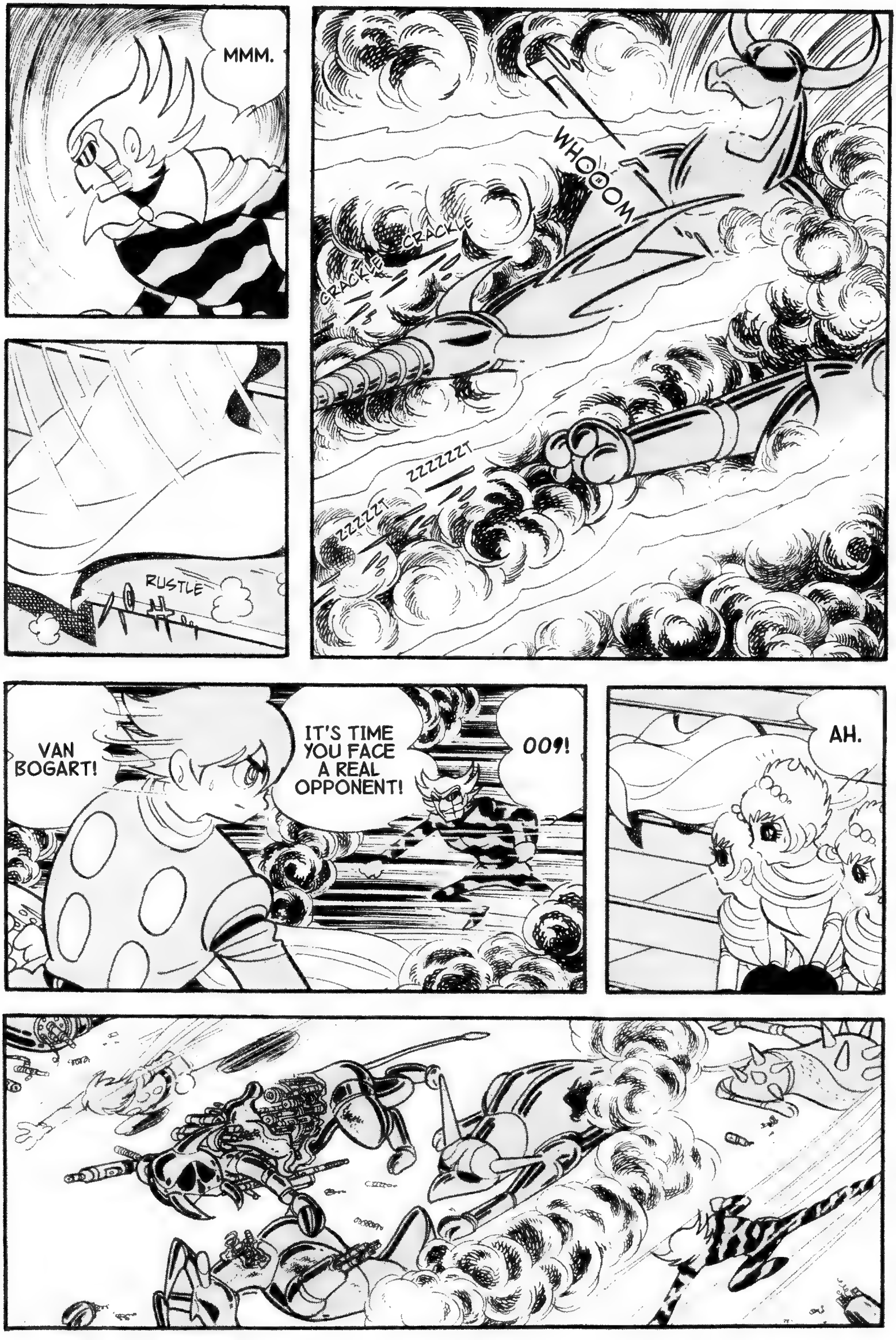

CRACKLE
COULD YOU SPEED IT UP, PARTNER?
I'M IN A BIT OF A BIND HERE.
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
DA
DA
DA
WHOOM
009? IS THAT REALLY YOU?
FANTASTIC! YOU'VE BROKEN OUT OF YOUR HYPNOTIC TRANCE!
004!

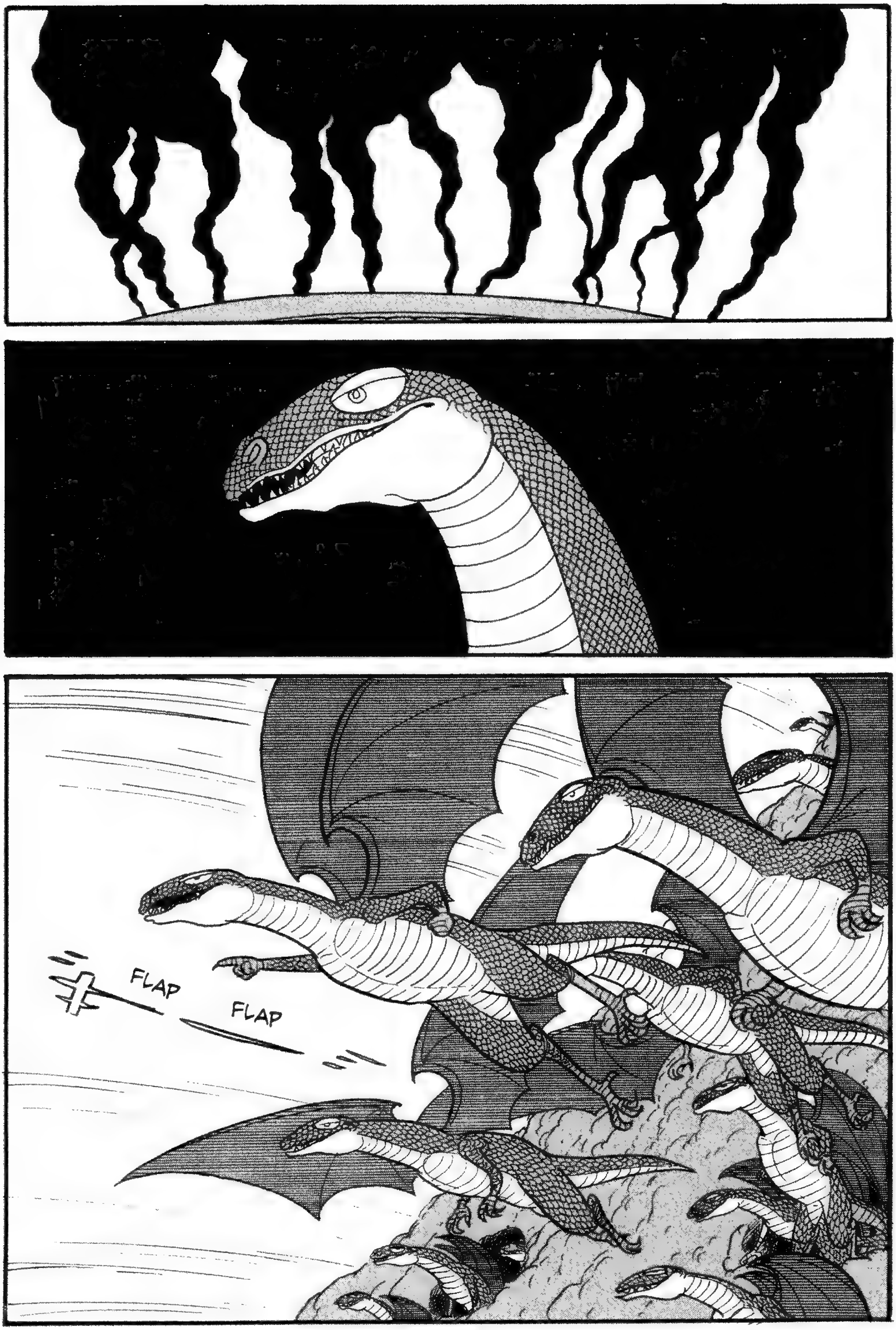

BZZZZZZZT
ROARRRR
DAMN.
BZZZZZZZZZZZZT
THWOOOM
ROARRRR
BABABABA

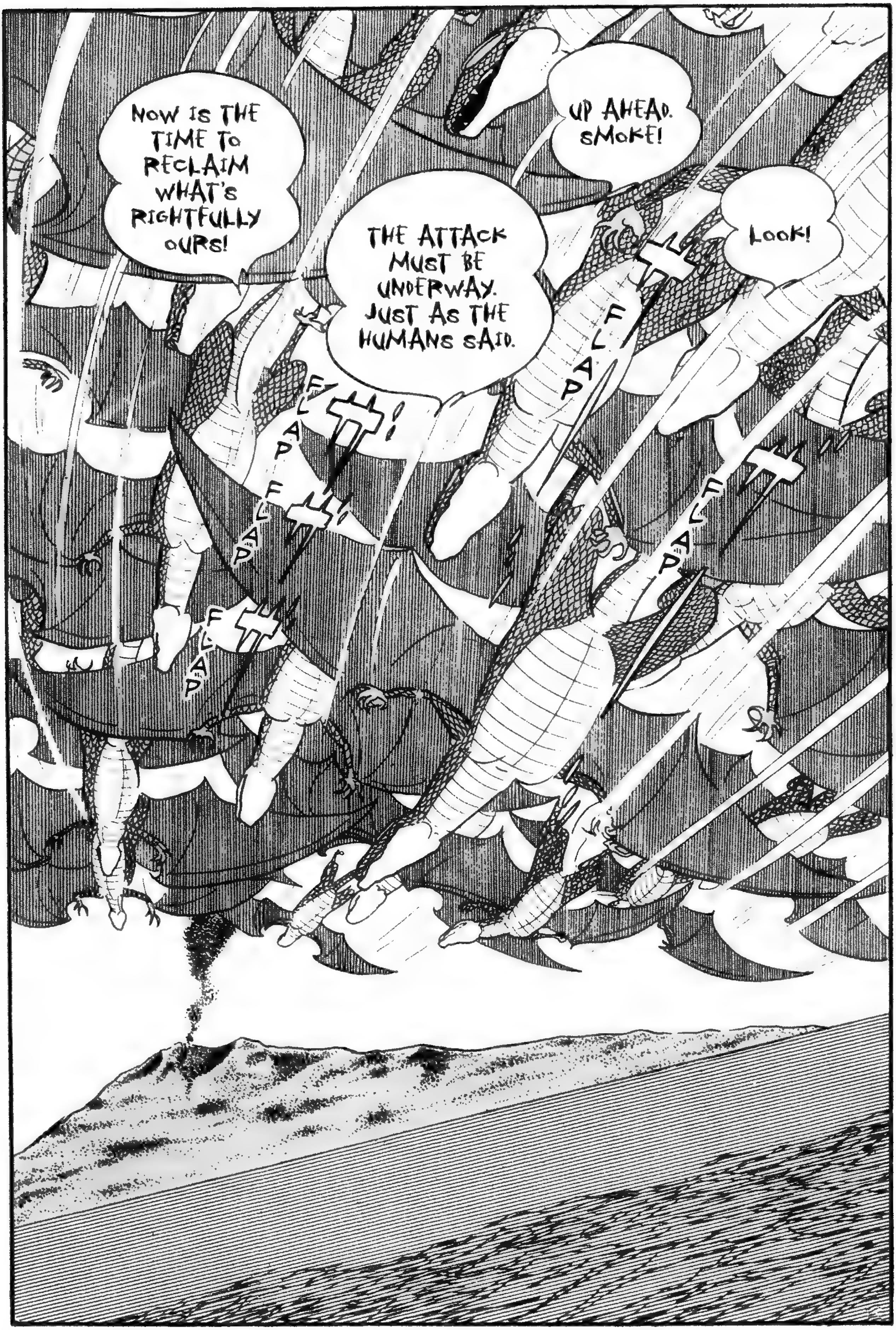

BZZZZT
BADOOOM
KAWHOOOM


ROBOTS STEP FORWARD!
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
WHUMP
WHUMP
WHUMP
GET READY.
READY, WILLING AND ABLE, MATE.
UNH...

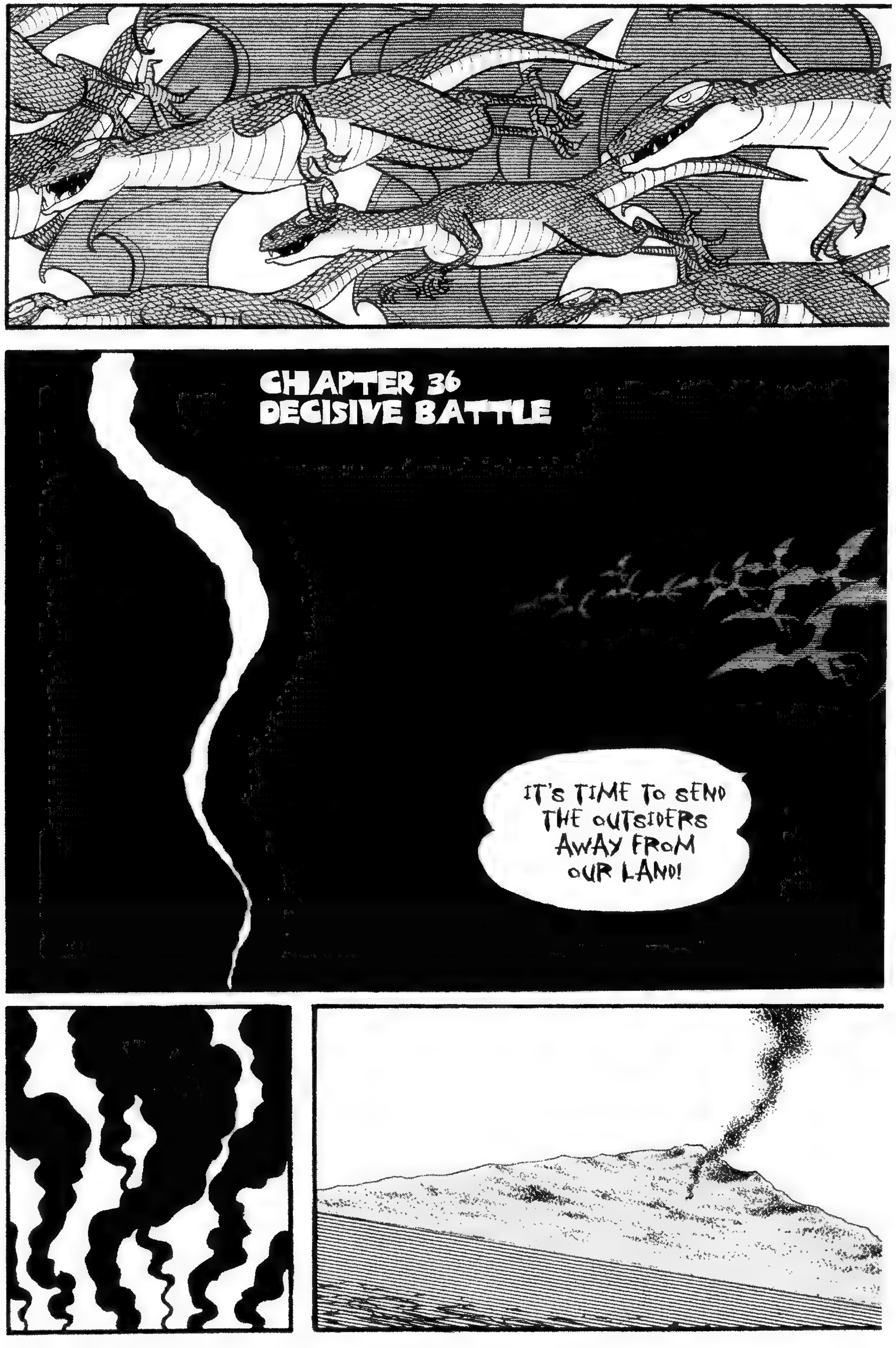

FWOOOSH
SCREECH
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
009!
HE MADE IT!
CHEERS! CALL IN THE CAVALRY!

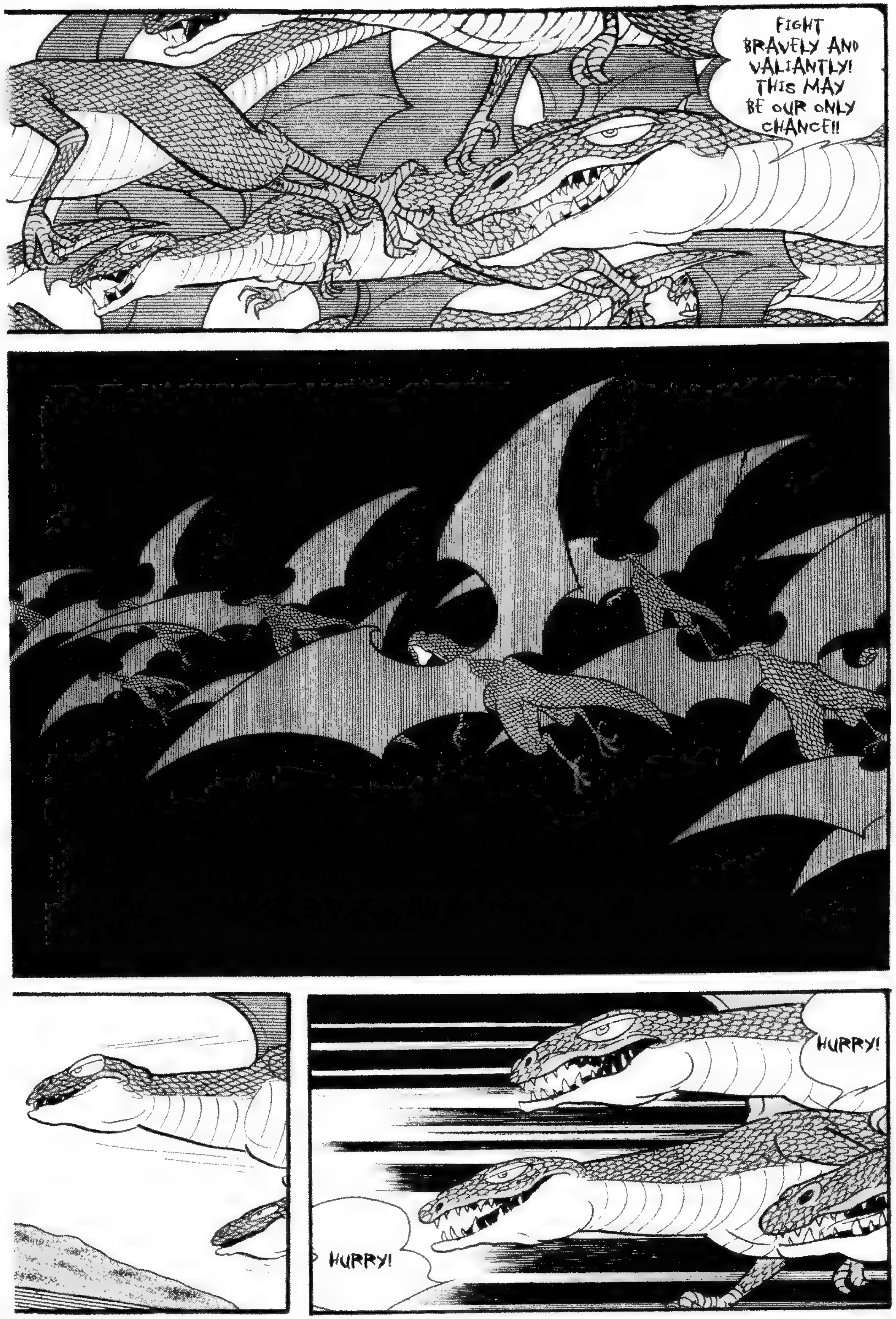

MMM.
RUSTLE
WHOOOM
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
ZZZZZZT
ZZZZZZT
VAN BOGART!
IT'S TIME YOU FACE A REAL OPPONENT!
009!
AH.

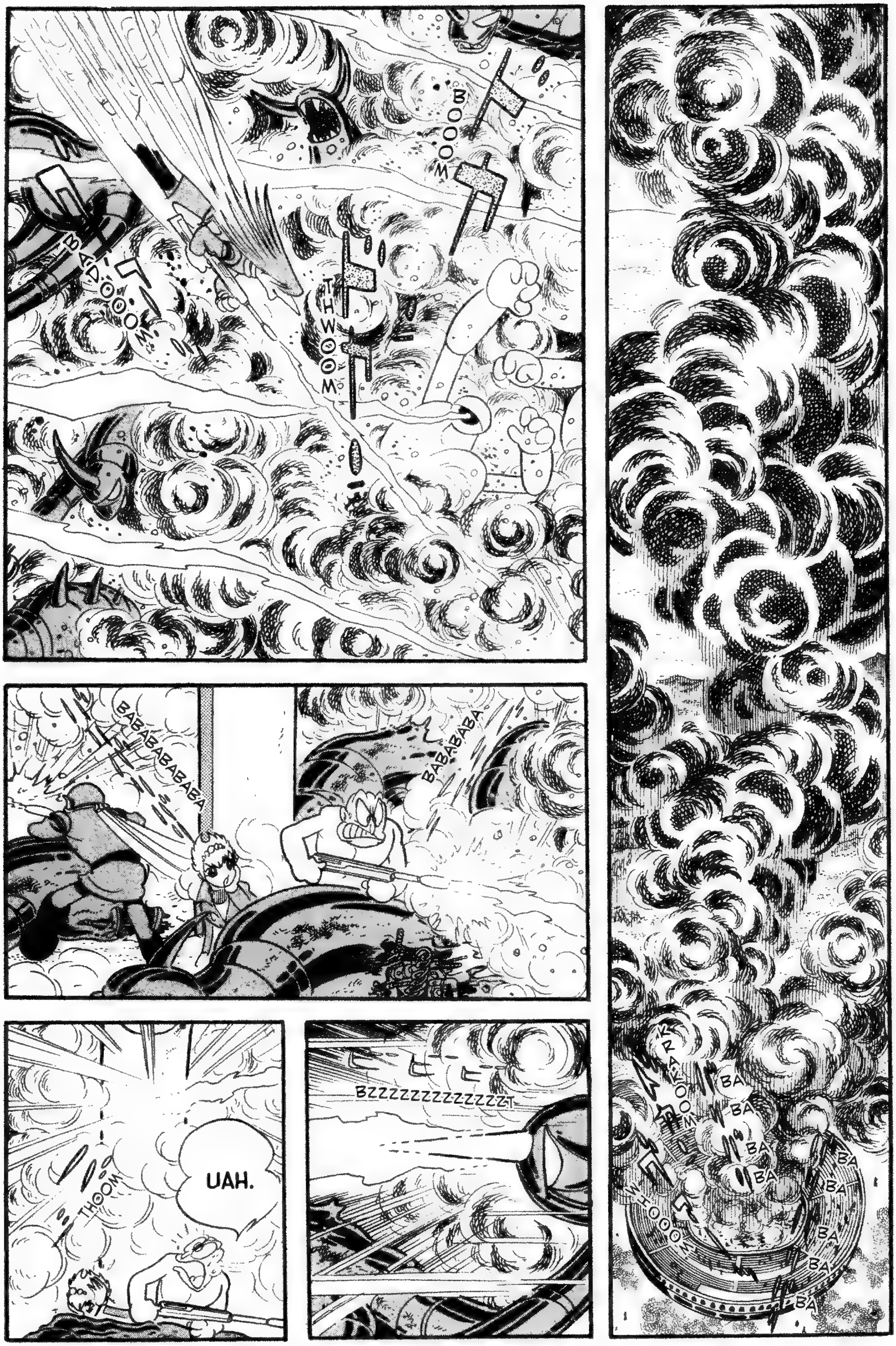

FLAP
FLAP

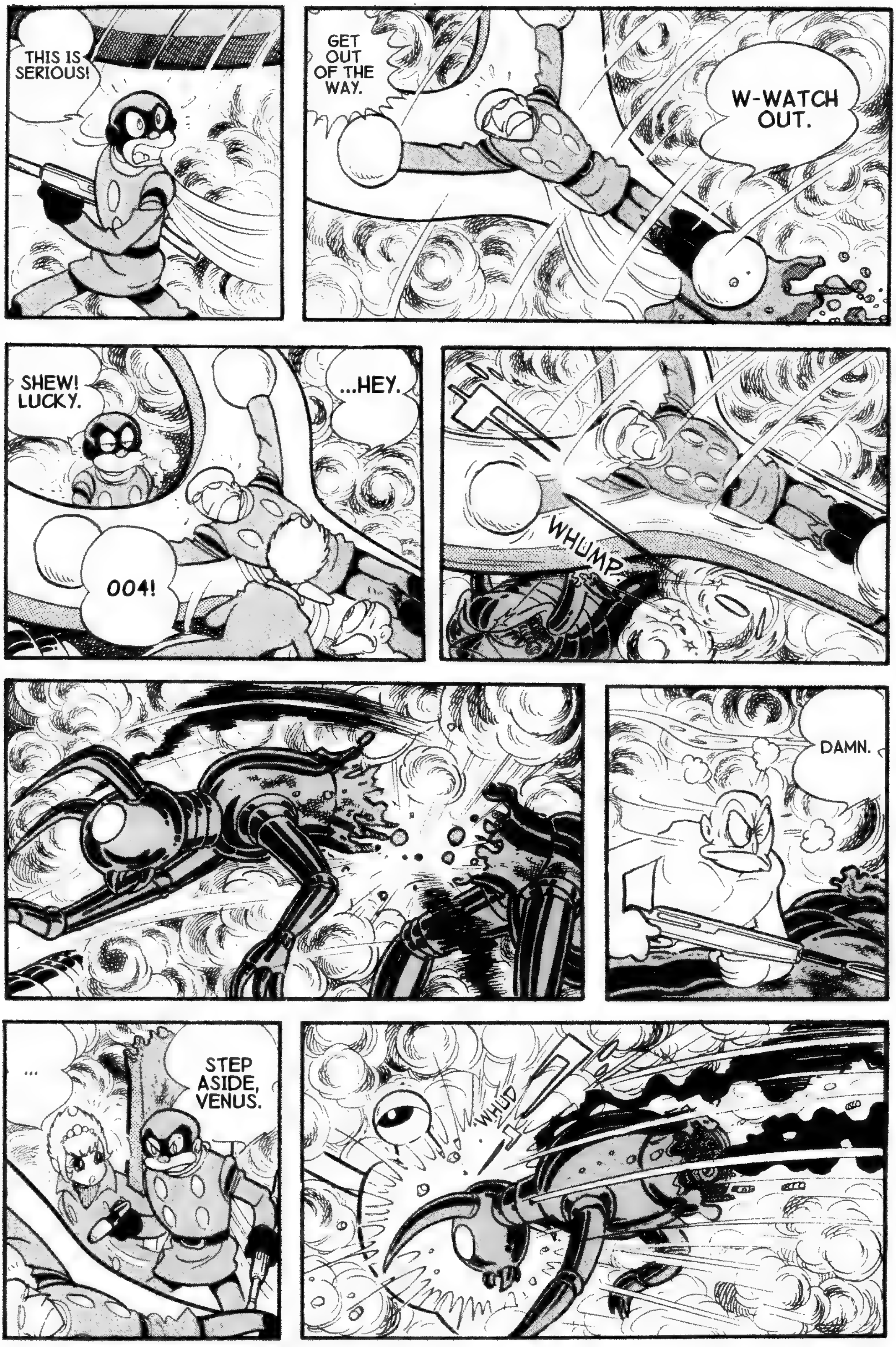

UP AHEAD. SMOKE!
NOW IS THE TIME TO RECLAIM WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY OURS!
LOOK!
THE ATTACK MUST BE UNDERWAY. JUST AS THE HUMANS SAID.
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

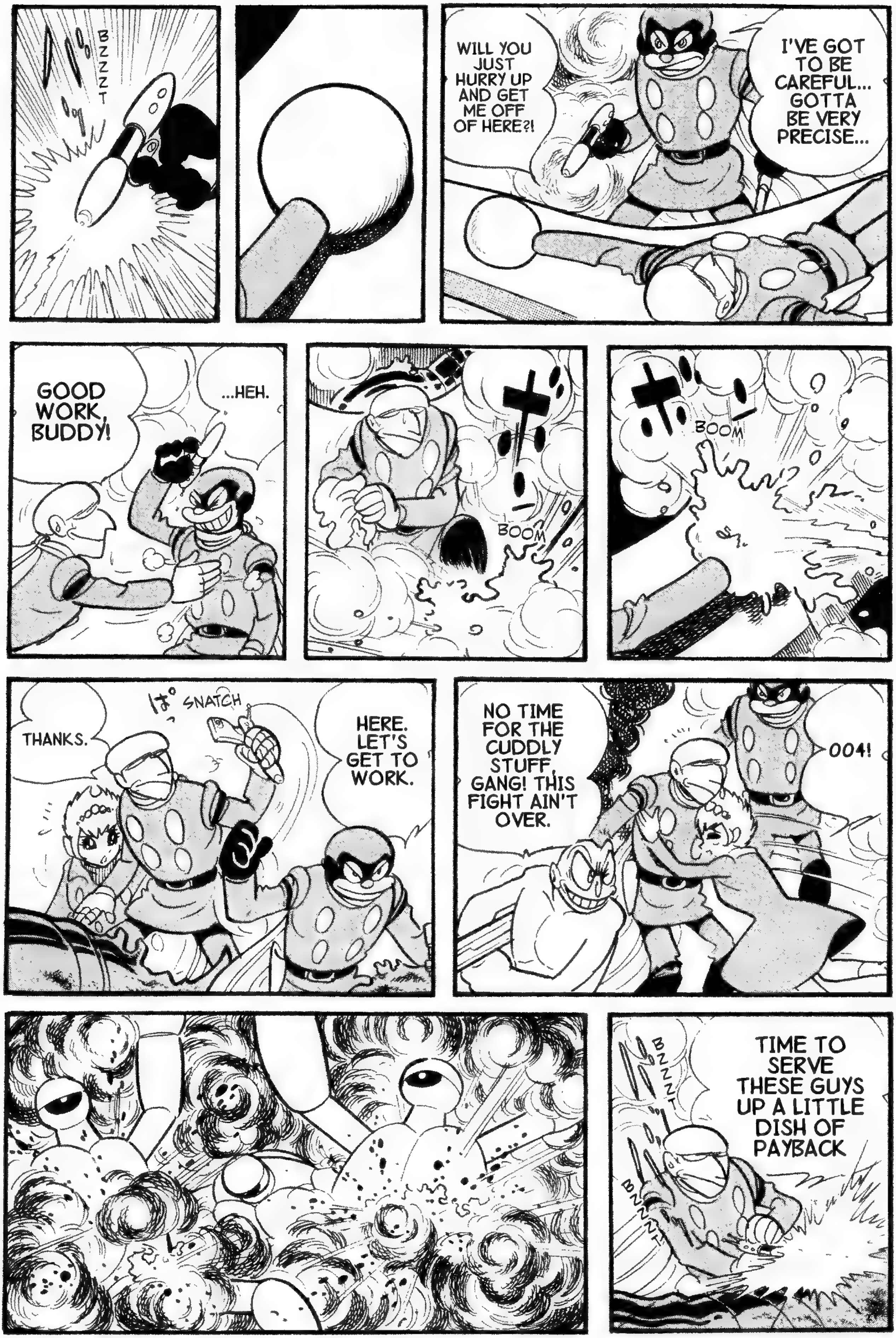
CHAPTER 36
DECISIVE BATTLE

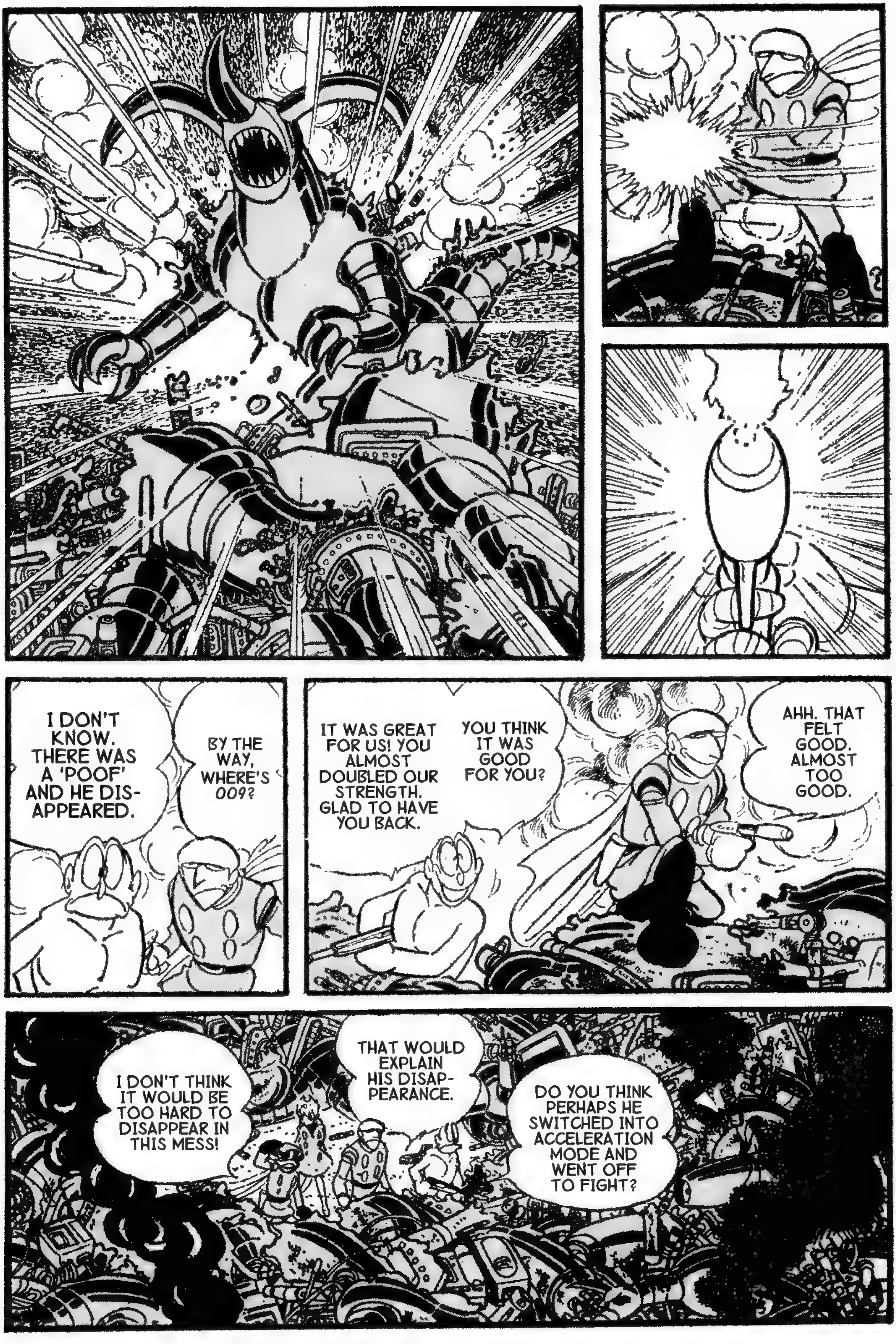

IT'S TIME TO SEND THE OUTSIDERS AWAY FROM OUR LAND!

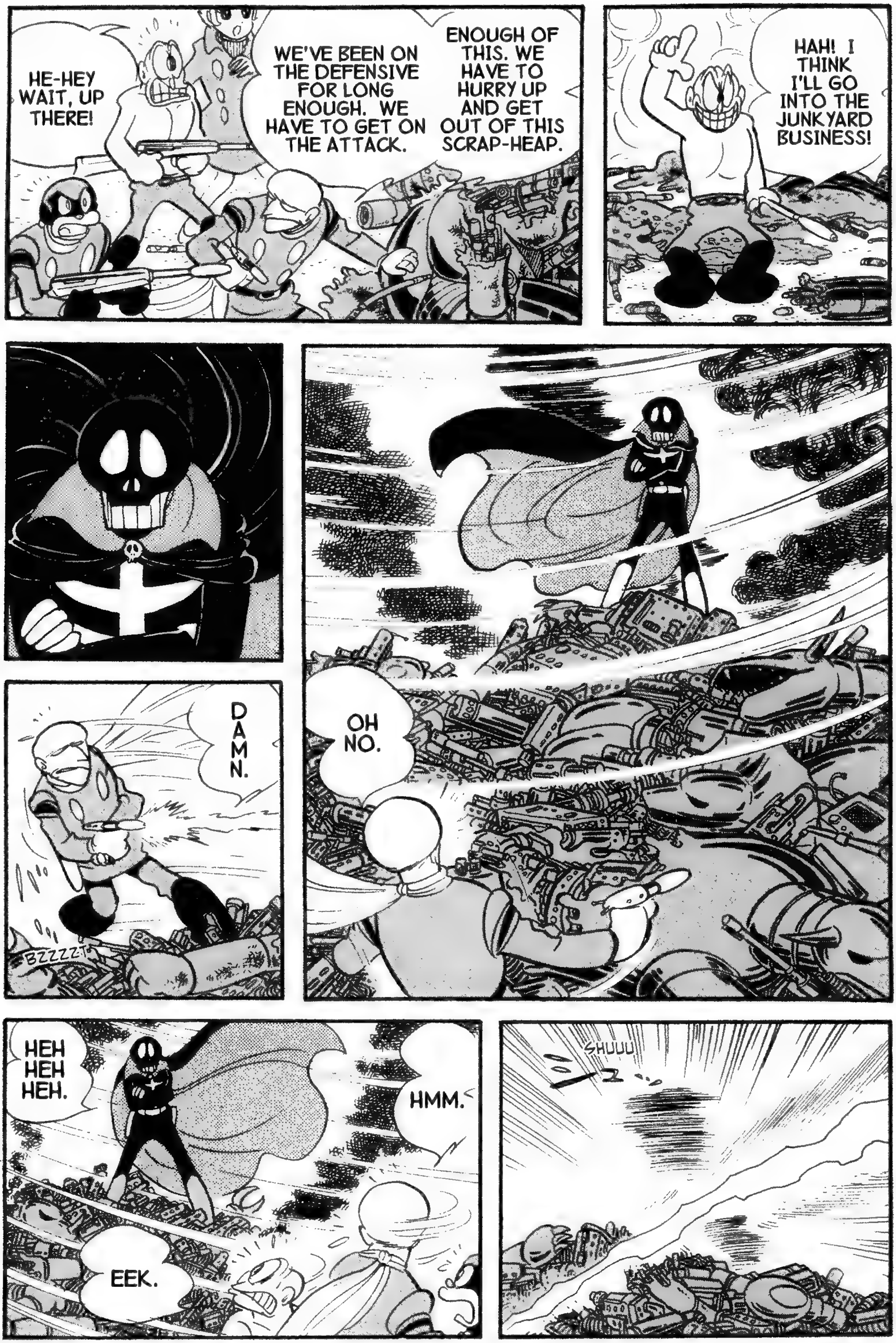

FIGHT BRAVELY AND VALIANTLY! THIS MAY BE OUR ONLY CHANCE!!
HURRY!
HURRY!

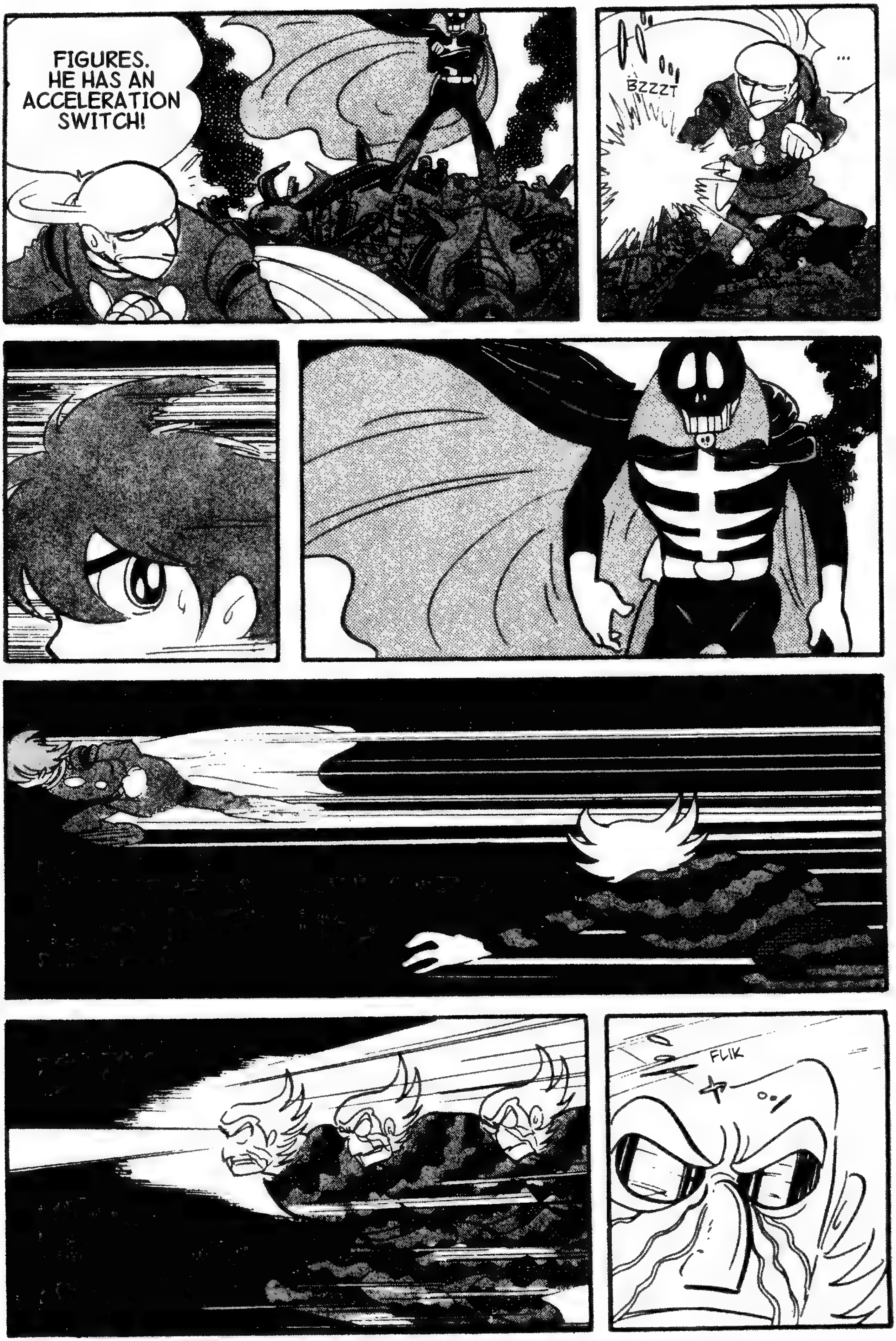

BADOOOOM
BOOOOM
THWOOM
BABABABABABA
BABABABA
THOOM
UAH.
BZZZZZZZZZZZZZT
KRAKOOM
WHOOOM
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA
BA

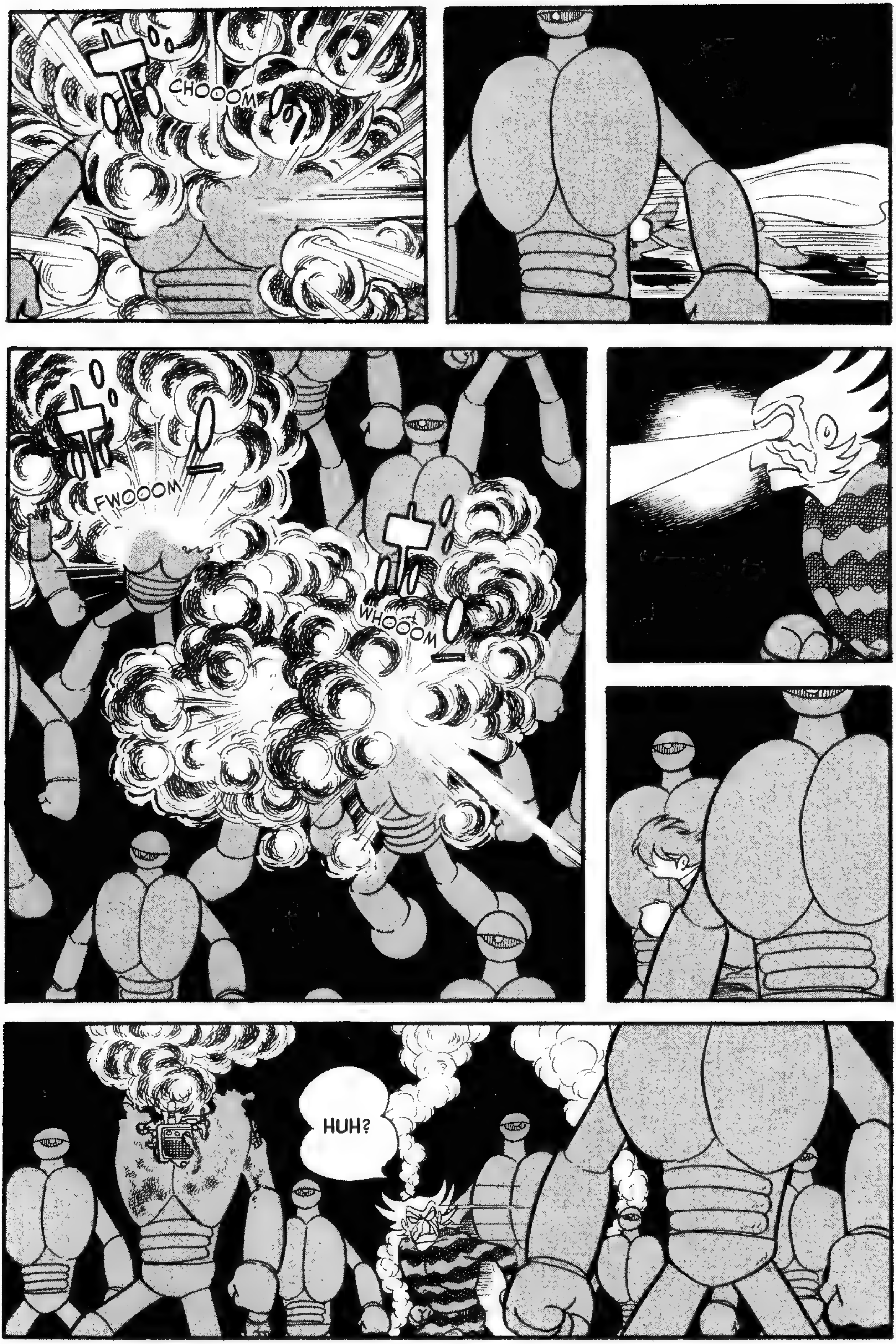

THIS IS SERIOUS!
GET OUT OF THE WAY.
W-WATCH OUT.
SHEW! LUCKY.
...HEY.
004!
WHUMP.
DAMN.
...
STEP ASIDE, VENUS.
WHUD

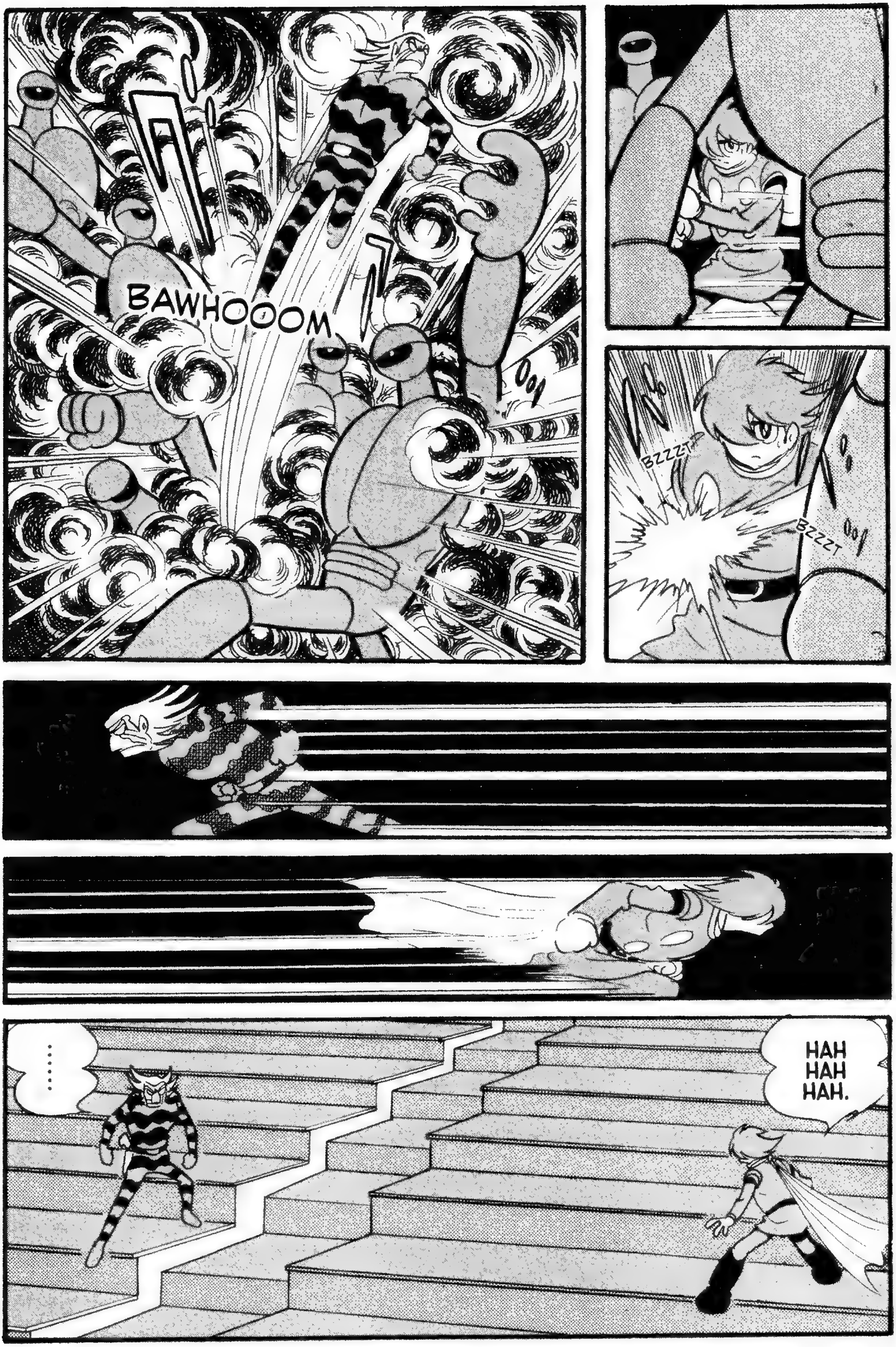

I'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL... GOTTA BE VERY PRECISE...
WILL YOU JUST HURRY UP AND GET ME OFF OF HERE?!
BZZZT
BOOM
BOOM
GOOD WORK, BUDDY!
...HEH.
004!
NO TIME FOR THE CUDDLY STUFF, GANG! THIS FIGHT AIN'T OVER.
HERE. LET'S GET TO WORK.
ぱ SNATCH
THANKS.
TIME TO SERVE THESE GUYS UP A LITTLE DISH OF PAYBACK
BZZZT
BZZZT

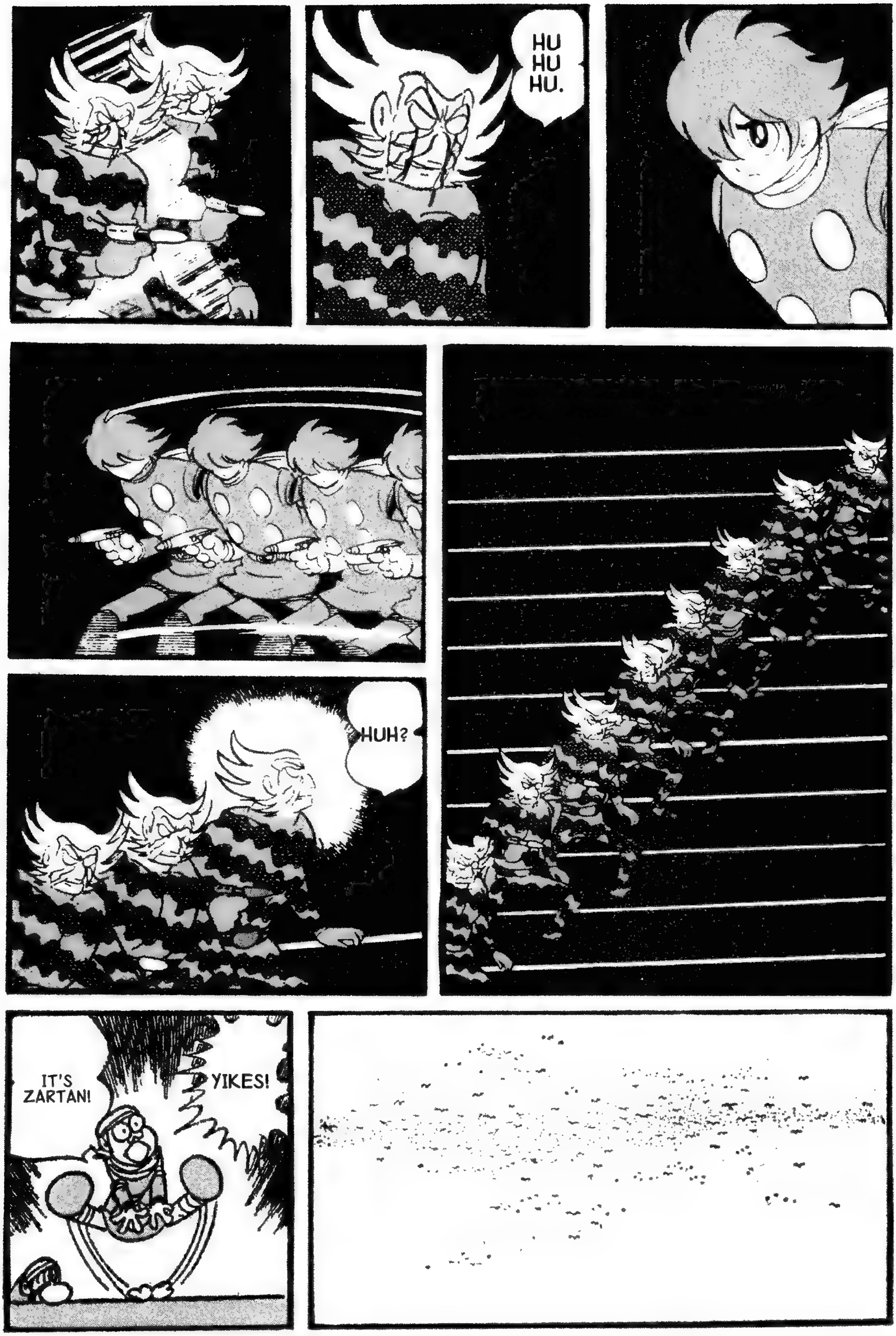

AHH. THAT FELT GOOD. ALMOST TOO GOOD.
YOU THINK IT WAS GOOD FOR YOU?
IT WAS GREAT FOR US! YOU ALMOST DOUBLED OUR STRENGTH. GLAD TO HAVE YOU BACK.
BY THE WAY, WHERE'S 009?
I DON'T KNOW. THERE WAS A 'POOF' AND HE DISAPPEARED.
DO YOU THINK PERHAPS HE SWITCHED INTO ACCELERATION MODE AND WENT OFF TO FIGHT?
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN HIS DISAPPEARANCE.
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE TOO HARD TO DISAPPEAR IN THIS MESS!

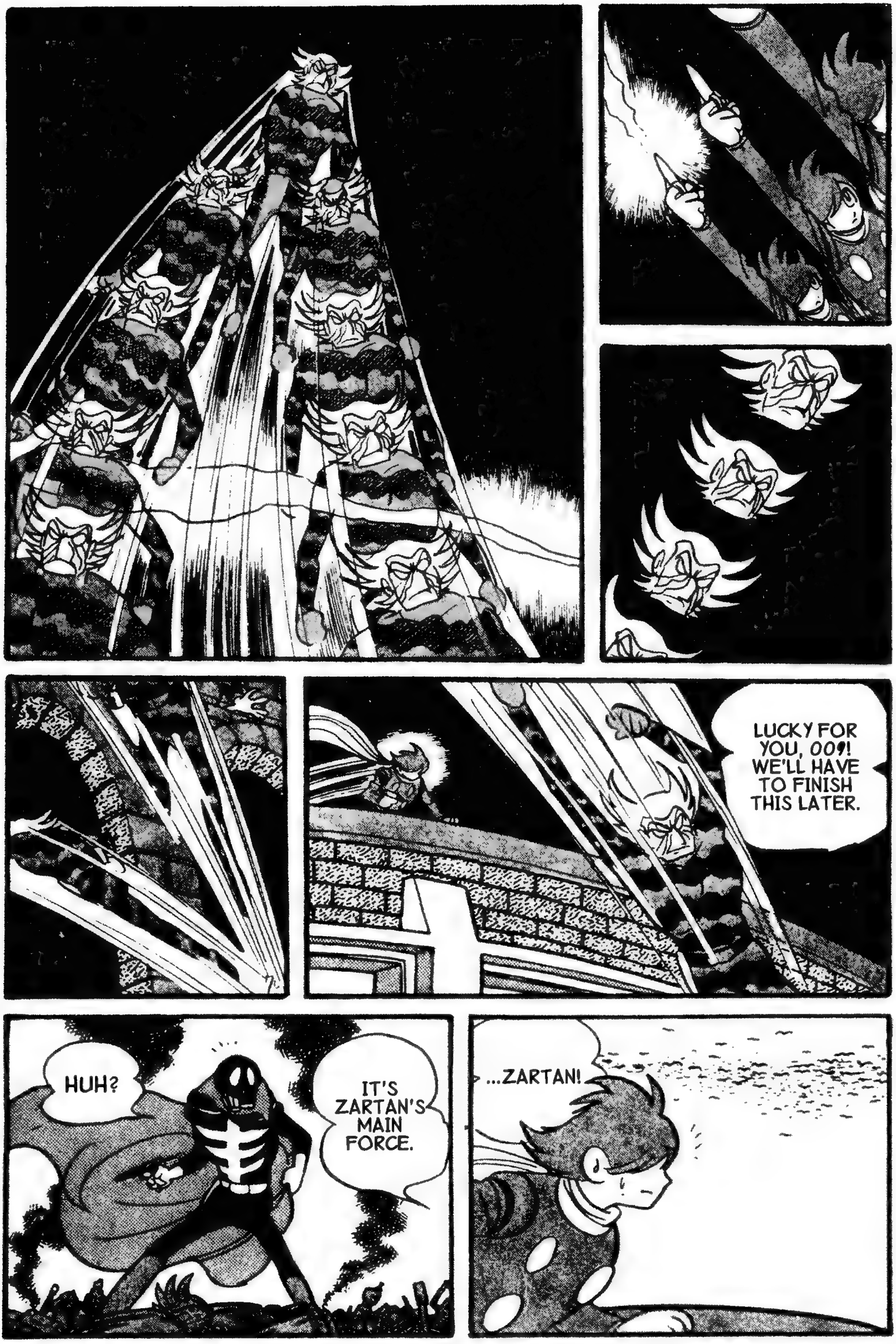

HE-HEY WAIT, UP THERE!
WE'VE BEEN ON THE DEFENSIVE FOR LONG ENOUGH. WE HAVE TO GET ON THE ATTACK.
ENOUGH OF THIS. WE HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF THIS SCRAP-HEAP.
HAH! I THINK I'LL GO INTO THE JUNKYARD BUSINESS!
DAMN.
BZZZZT
OH NO.
HEH HEH HEH.
HMM.
EEK.
SHUUU

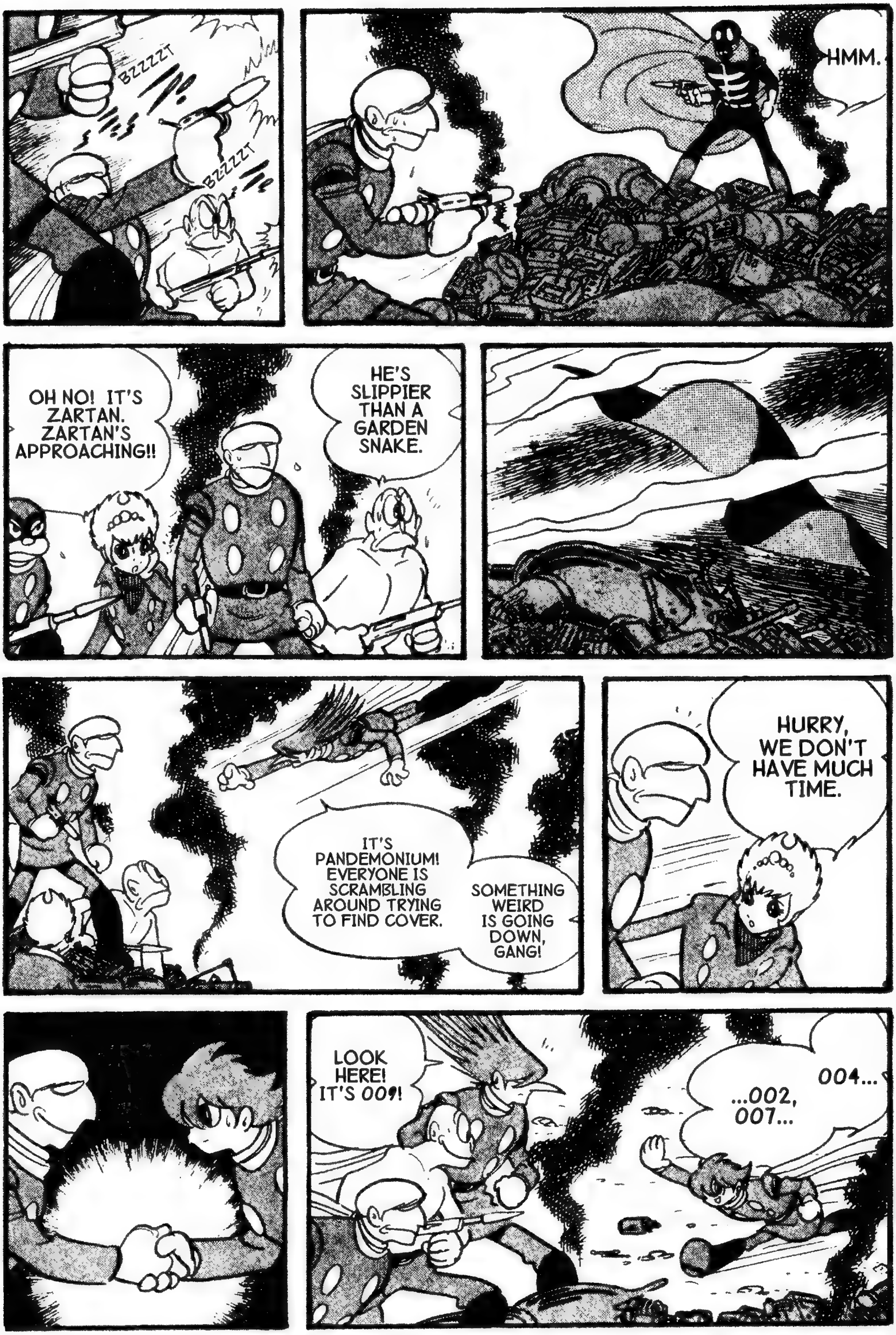

FIGURES. HE HAS AN ACCELERATION SWITCH!
BZZZT
...
FLIK

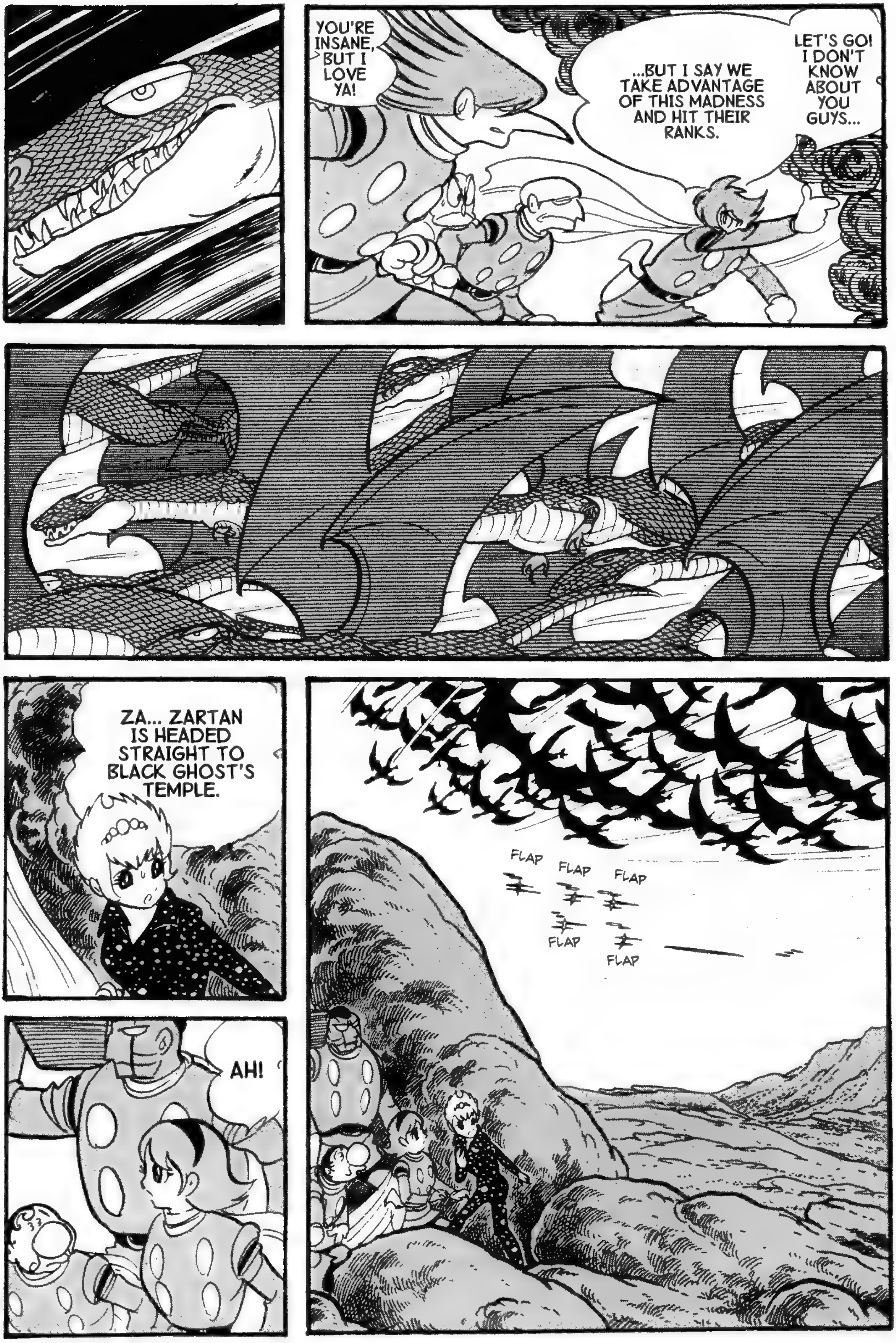

CHOOOM
FWOOOM
WHOOOM
HUH?

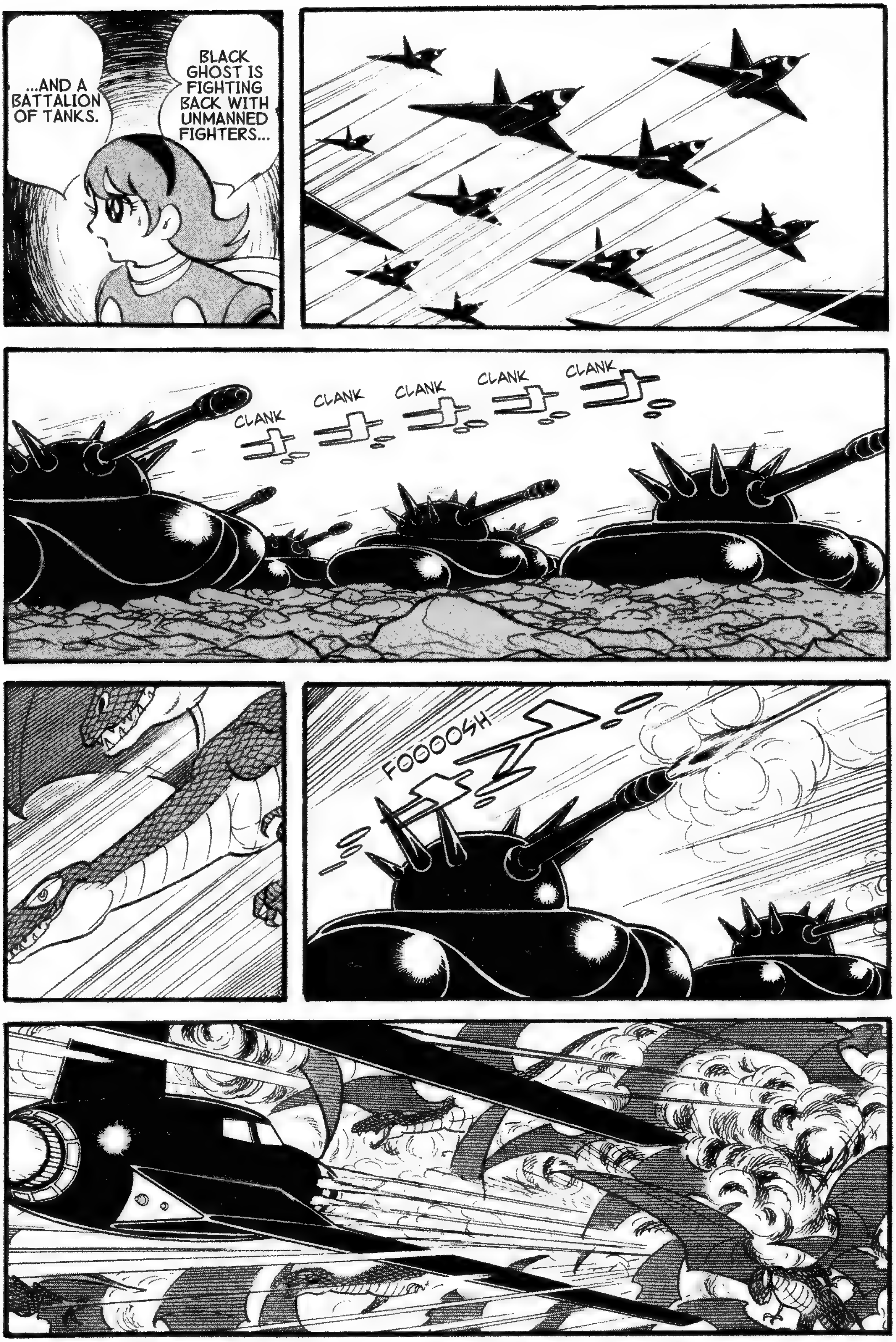

BAWHOOOM
BZZZT
BZZZT
......
HAH HAH HAH.

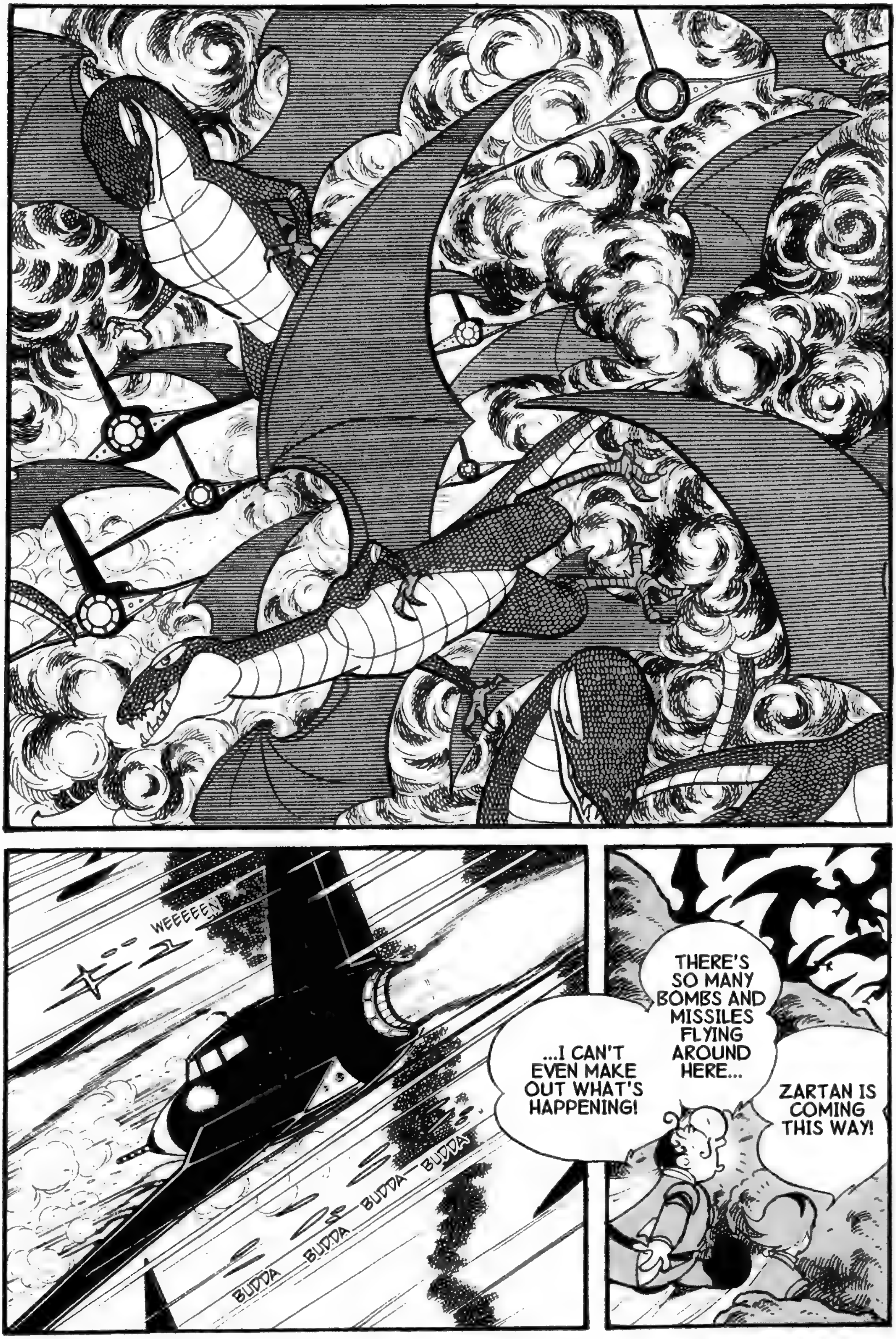

HU HU HU.
HUH?
IT'S ZARTAN!
YIKES!

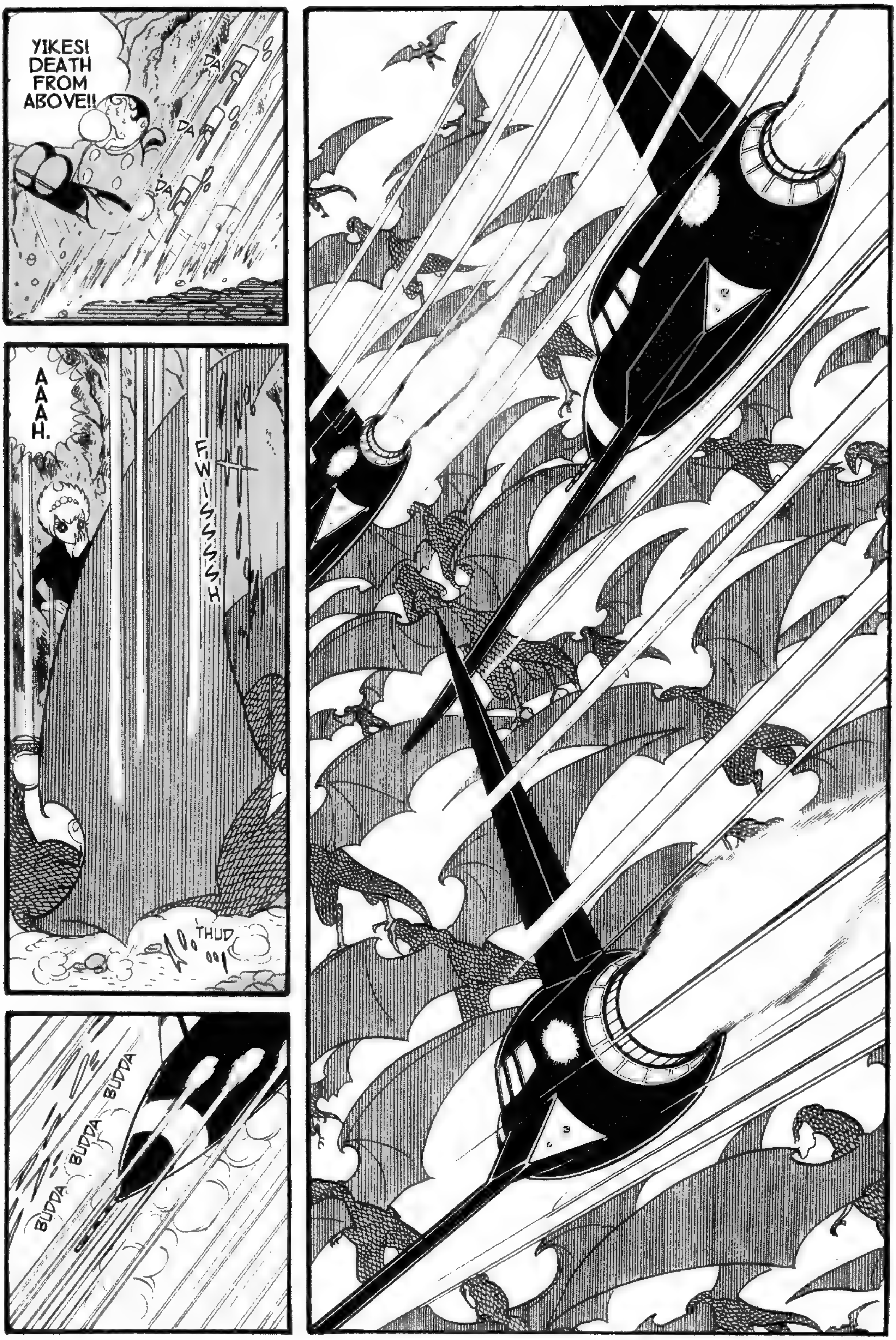

LUCKY FOR YOU, 009! WE'LL HAVE TO FINISH THIS LATER.
HUH?
IT'S ZARTAN'S MAIN FORCE.
...ZARTAN!

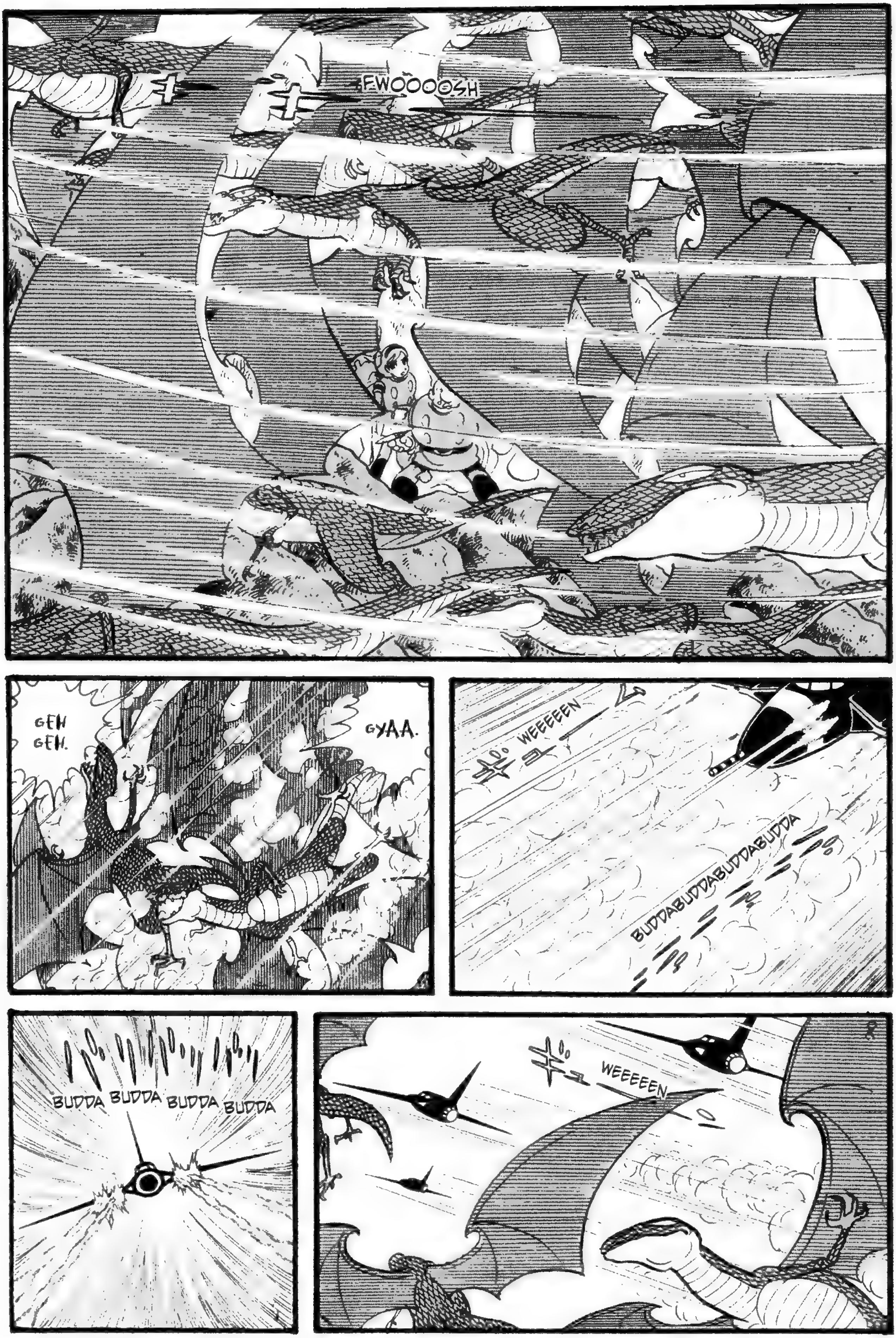

BZZZZT
BZZZZT
HMM.
OH NO! IT'S ZARTAN. ZARTAN'S APPROACHING!!
HE'S SLIPPIER THAN A GARDEN SNAKE.
IT'S PANDEMONIUM! EVERYONE IS SCRAMBLING AROUND TRYING TO FIND COVER.
SOMETHING WEIRD IS GOING DOWN, GANG!
HURRY, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
LOOK HERE! IT'S 009!
004...
...002, 007...

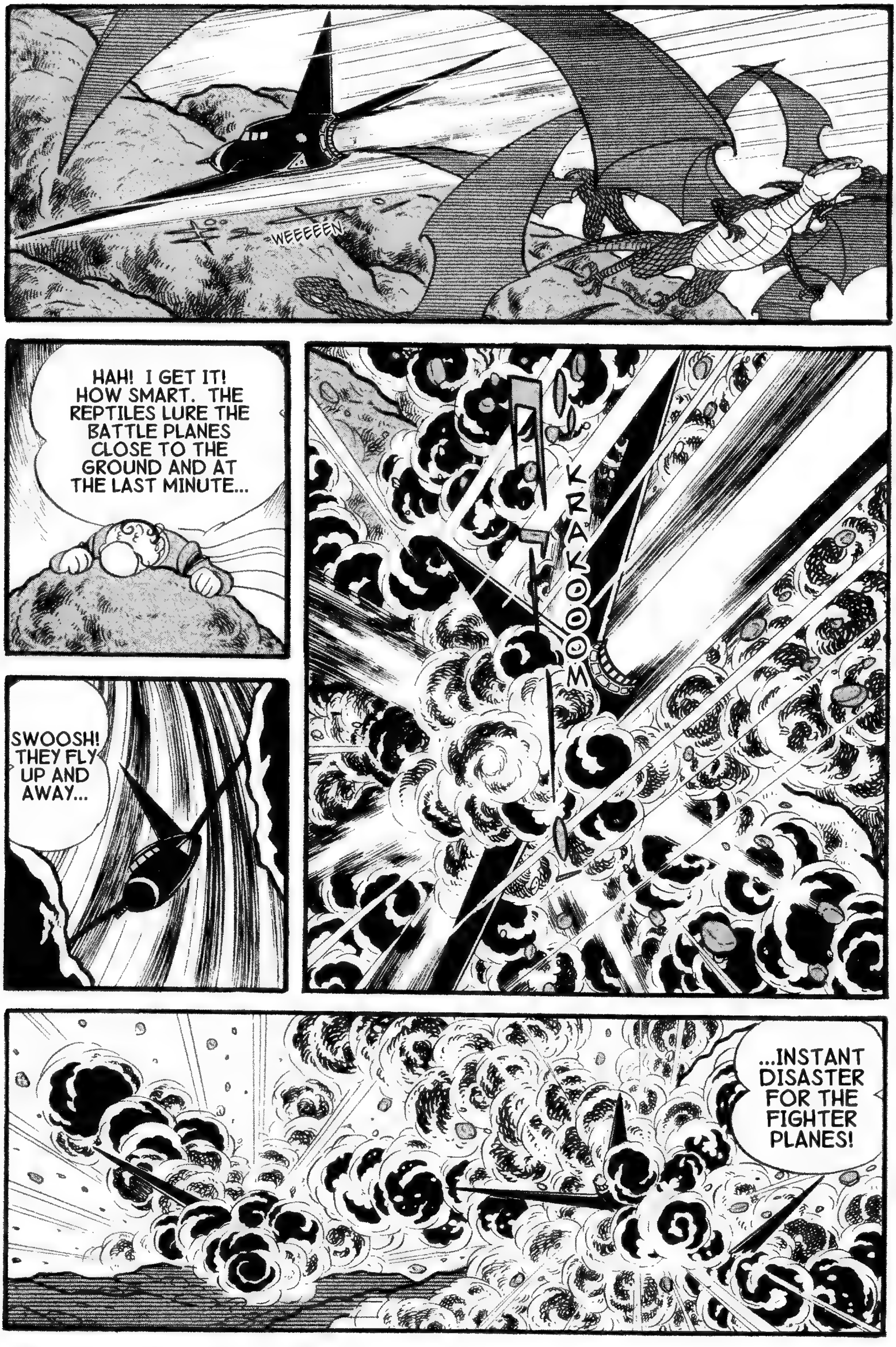

LET'S GO! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS...
...BUT I SAY WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS MADNESS AND HIT THEIR RANKS.
YOU'RE INSANE, BUT I LOVE YA!
ZA... ZARTAN IS HEADED STRAIGHT TO BLACK GHOST'S TEMPLE.
AH!
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

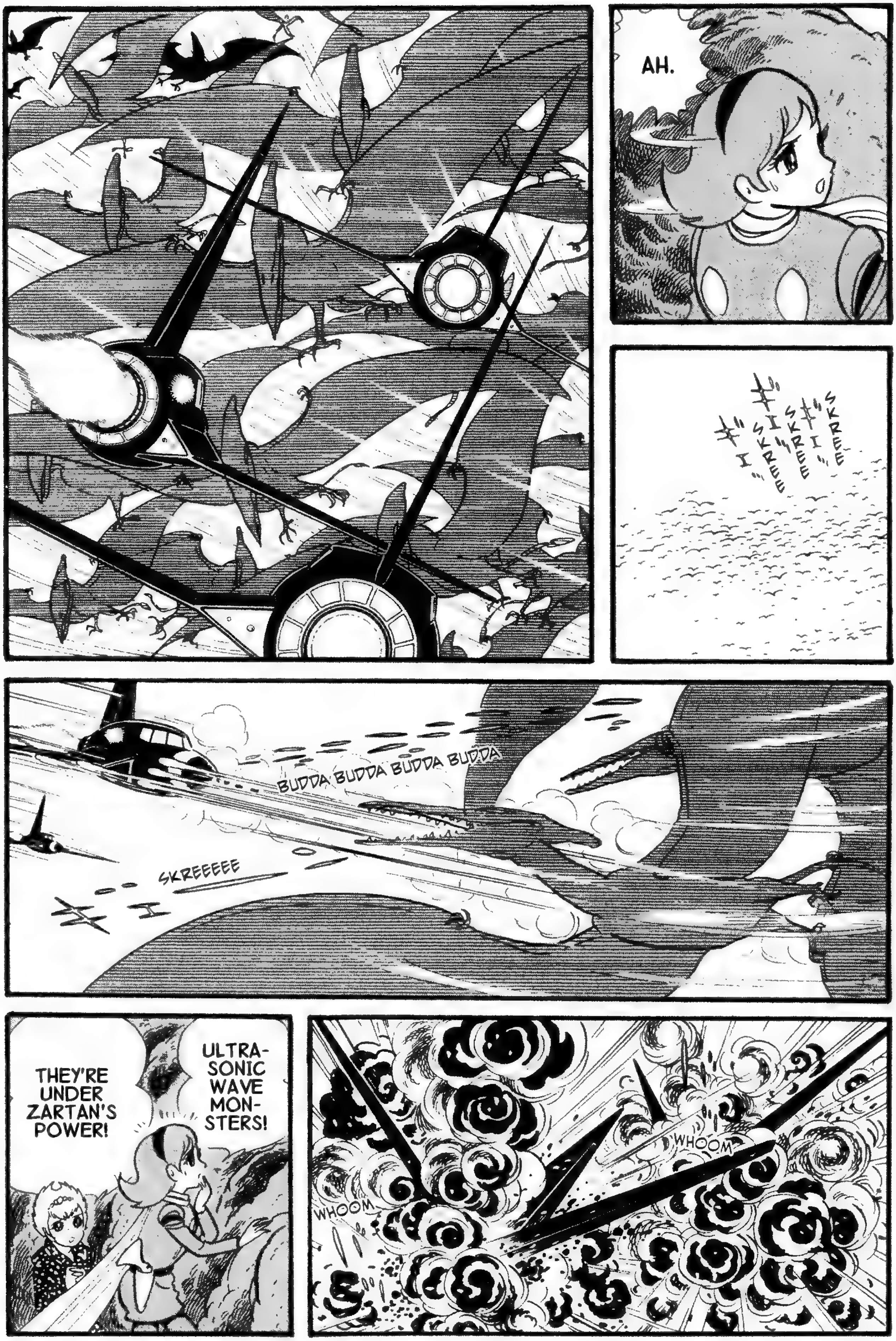

BLACK GHOST IS FIGHTING BACK WITH UNMANNED FIGHTERS...
...AND A BATTALION OF TANKS.
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
CLANK
FOOOOSH

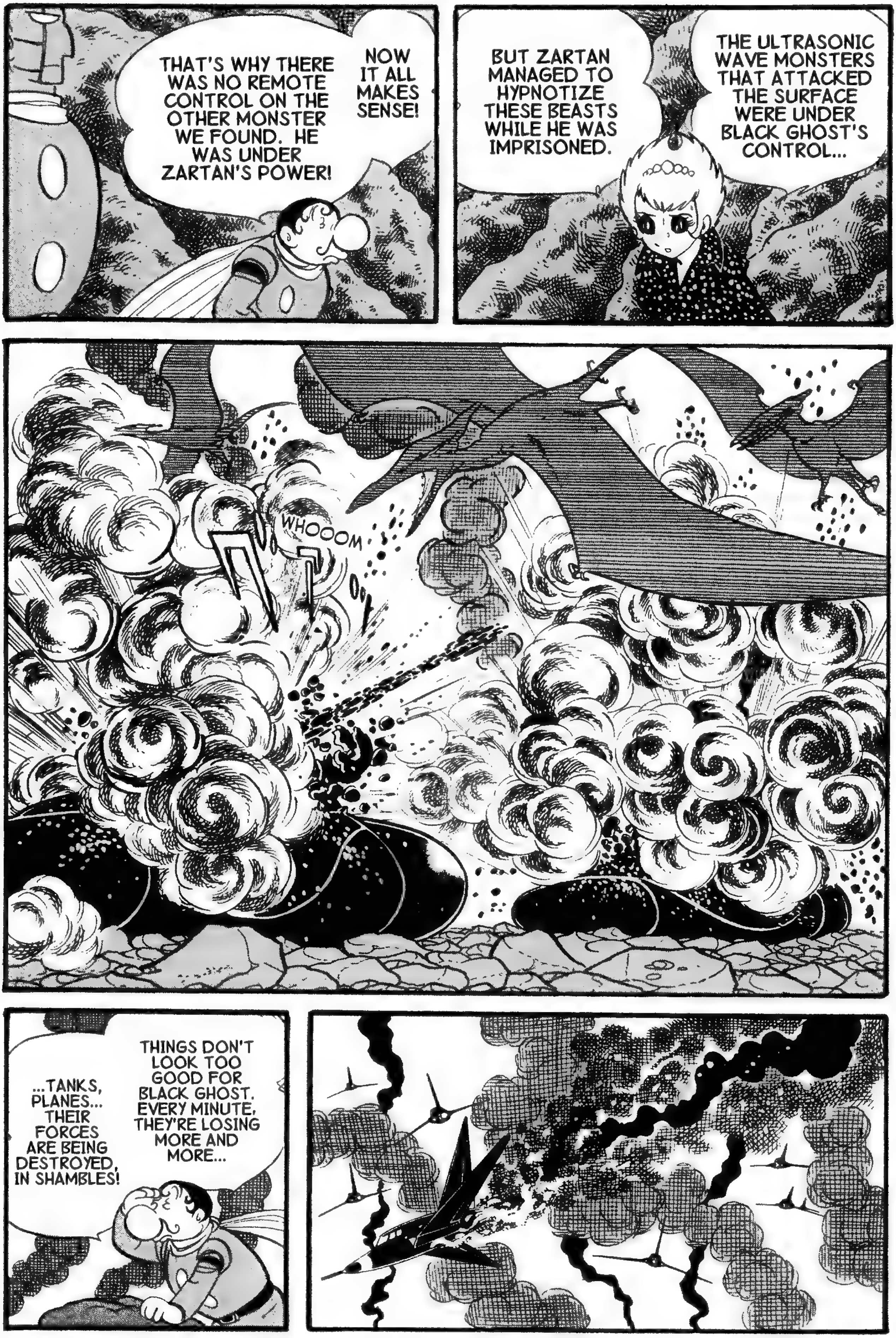

WEEEEEN
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
THERE'S SO MANY BOMBS AND MISSILES FLYING AROUND HERE...
...I CAN'T EVEN MAKE OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING!
ZARTAN IS COMING THIS WAY!

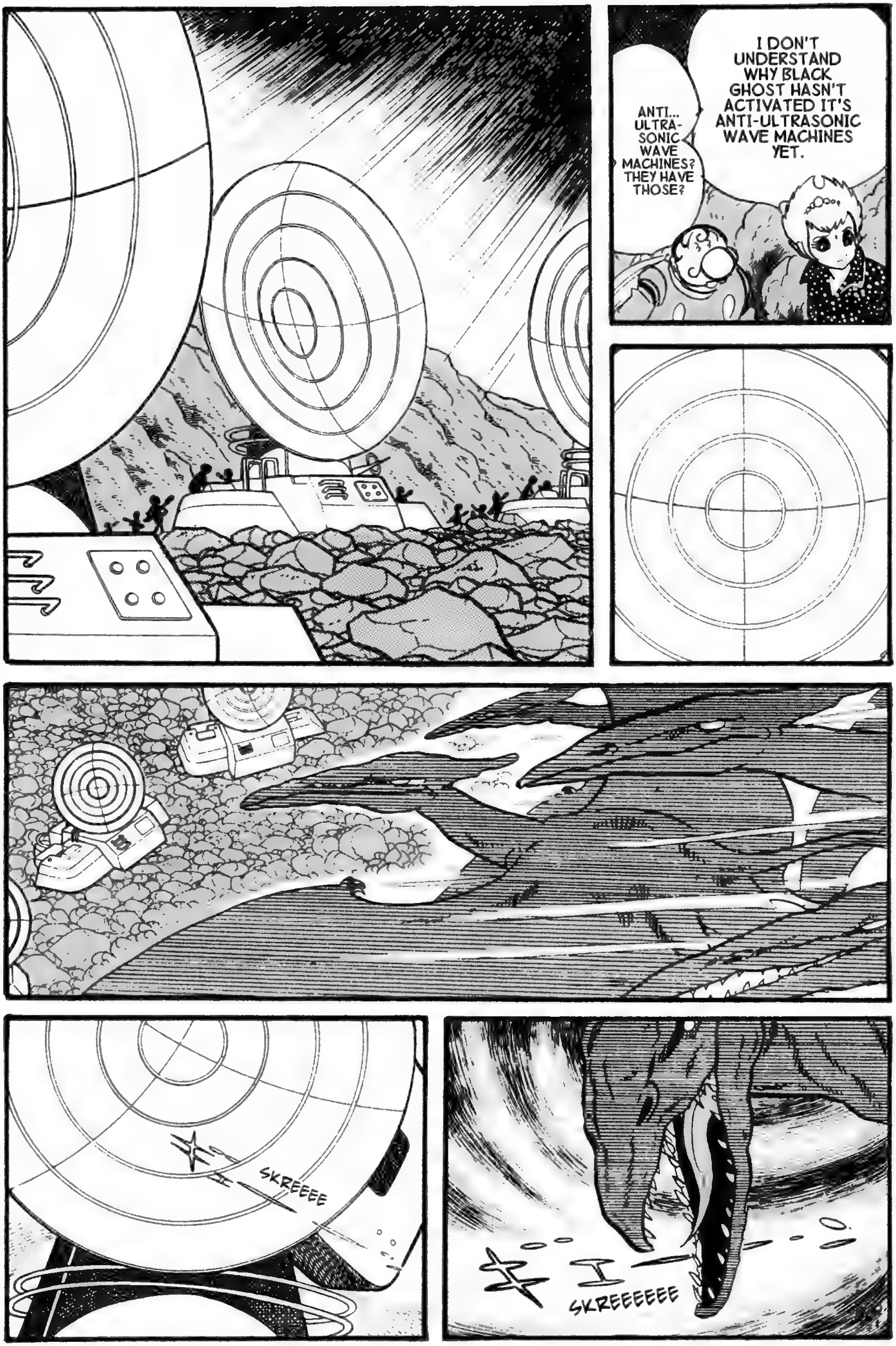

YIKES! DEATH FROM ABOVE!!
DA
DA
DA
AAAH.
FWISSSSSH
THUD
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

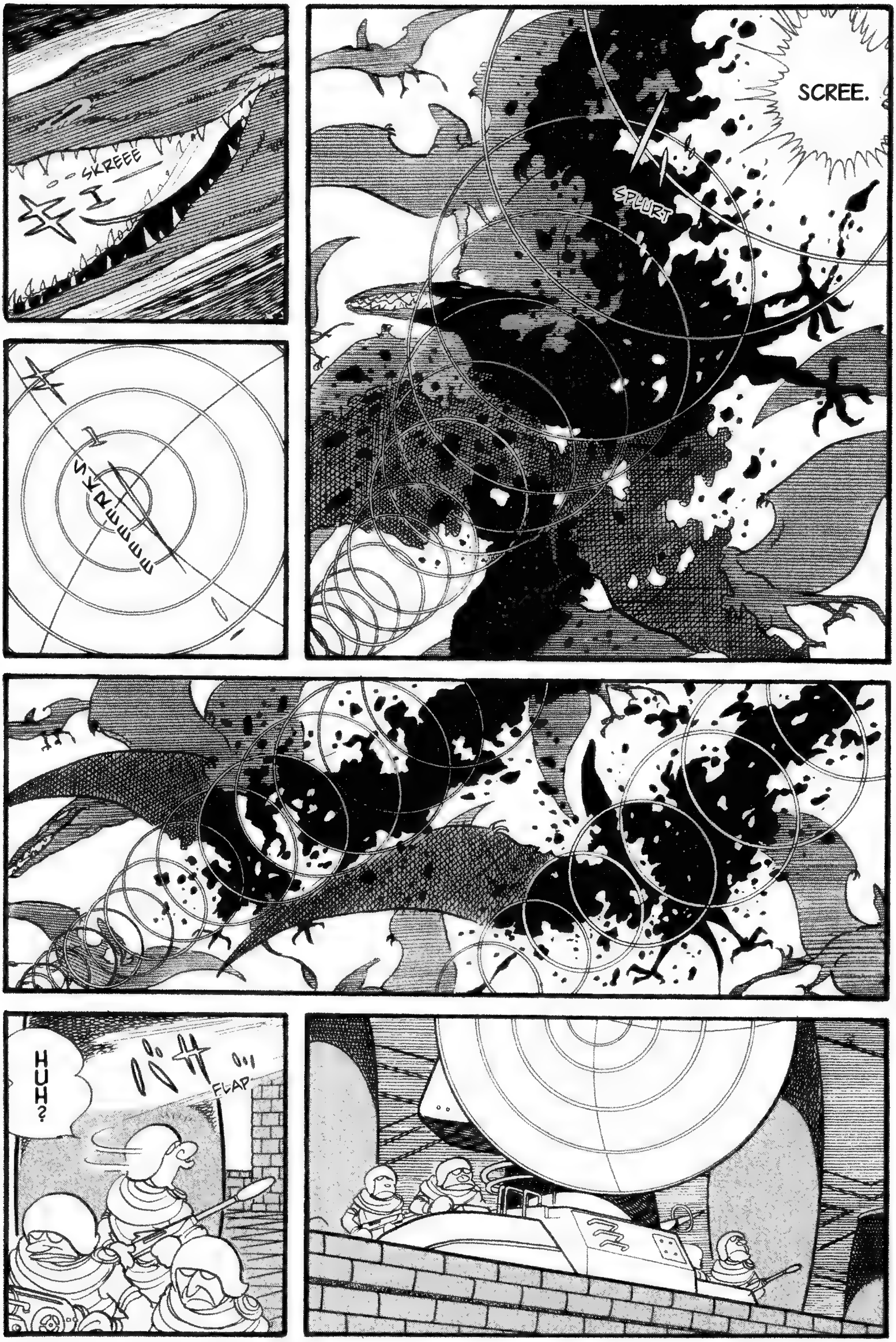

FWOOOOSH
GEH GEH.
GYAA.
WEEEEEN
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
WEEEEEN

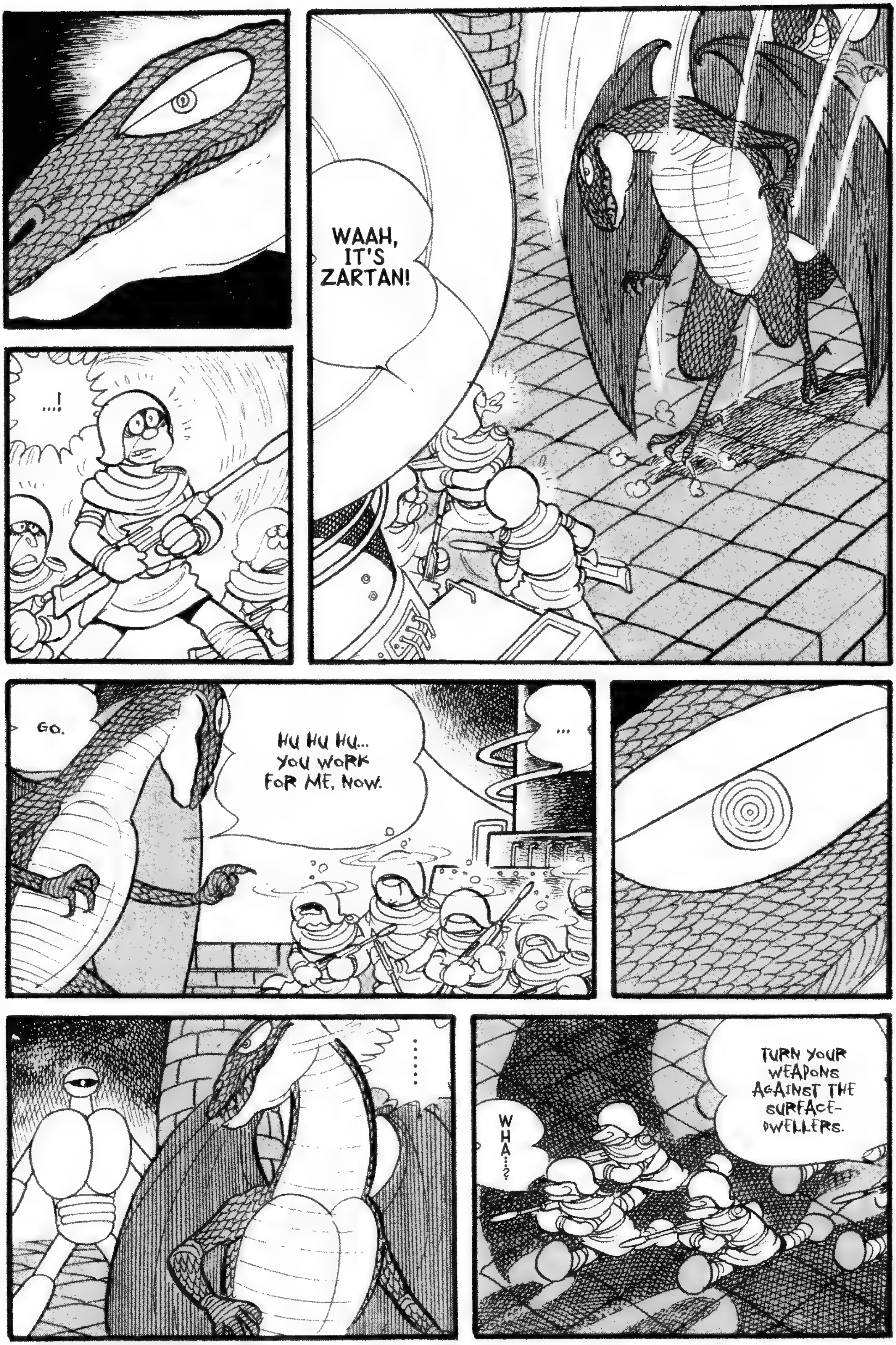

WEEEEEN
HAH! I GET IT! HOW SMART. THE REPTILES LURE THE BATTLE PLANES CLOSE TO THE GROUND AND AT THE LAST MINUTE...
SWOOSH! THEY FLY UP AND AWAY...
KRAKOOOOM
...INSTANT DISASTER FOR THE FIGHTER PLANES!

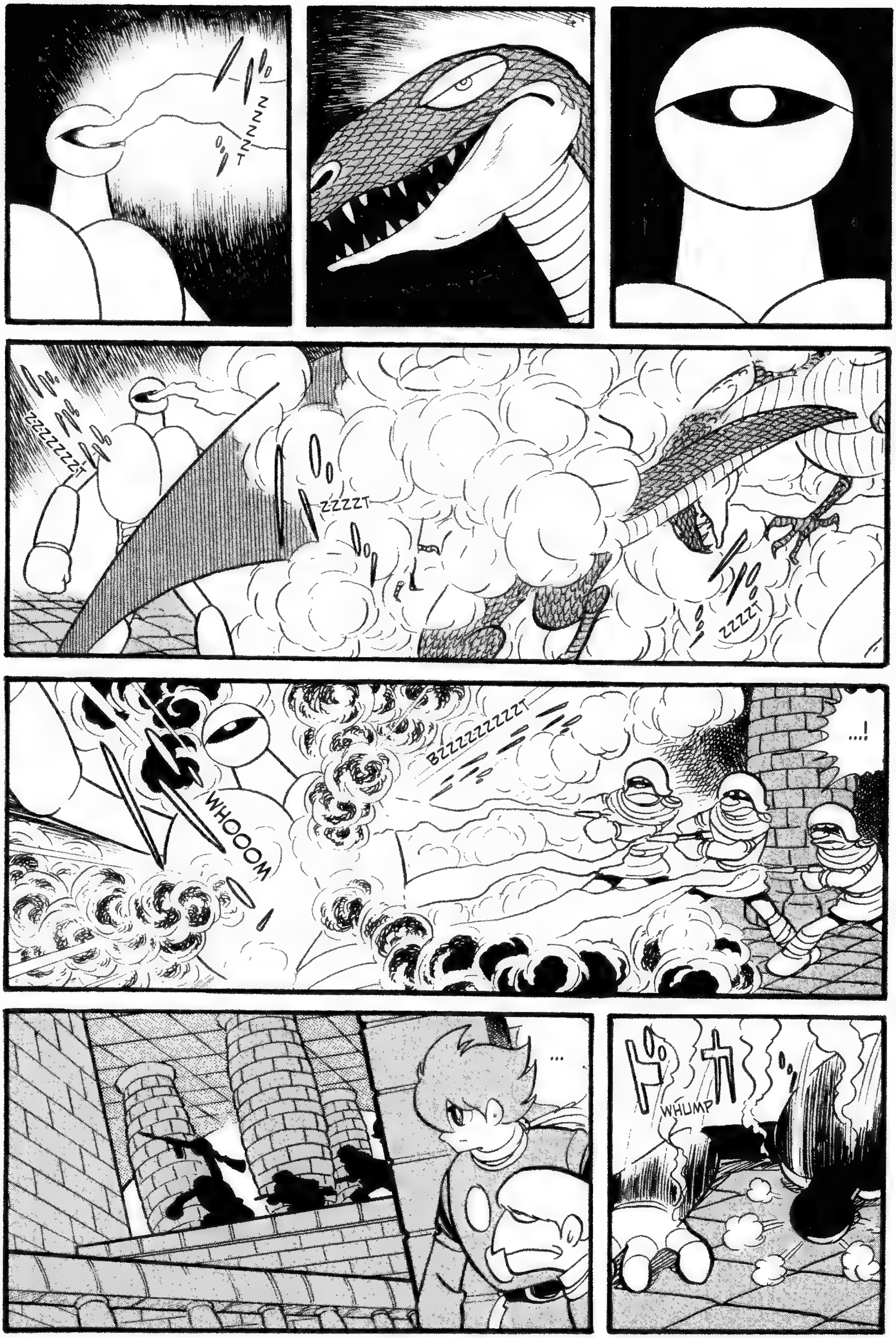

AH.
SKREE SKREE SKREE
BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA BUDDA
SKREEEEEE
WHOOM
WHOOM
ULTRA-SONIC WAVE MON-STERS!
THEY'RE UNDER ZARTAN'S POWER!

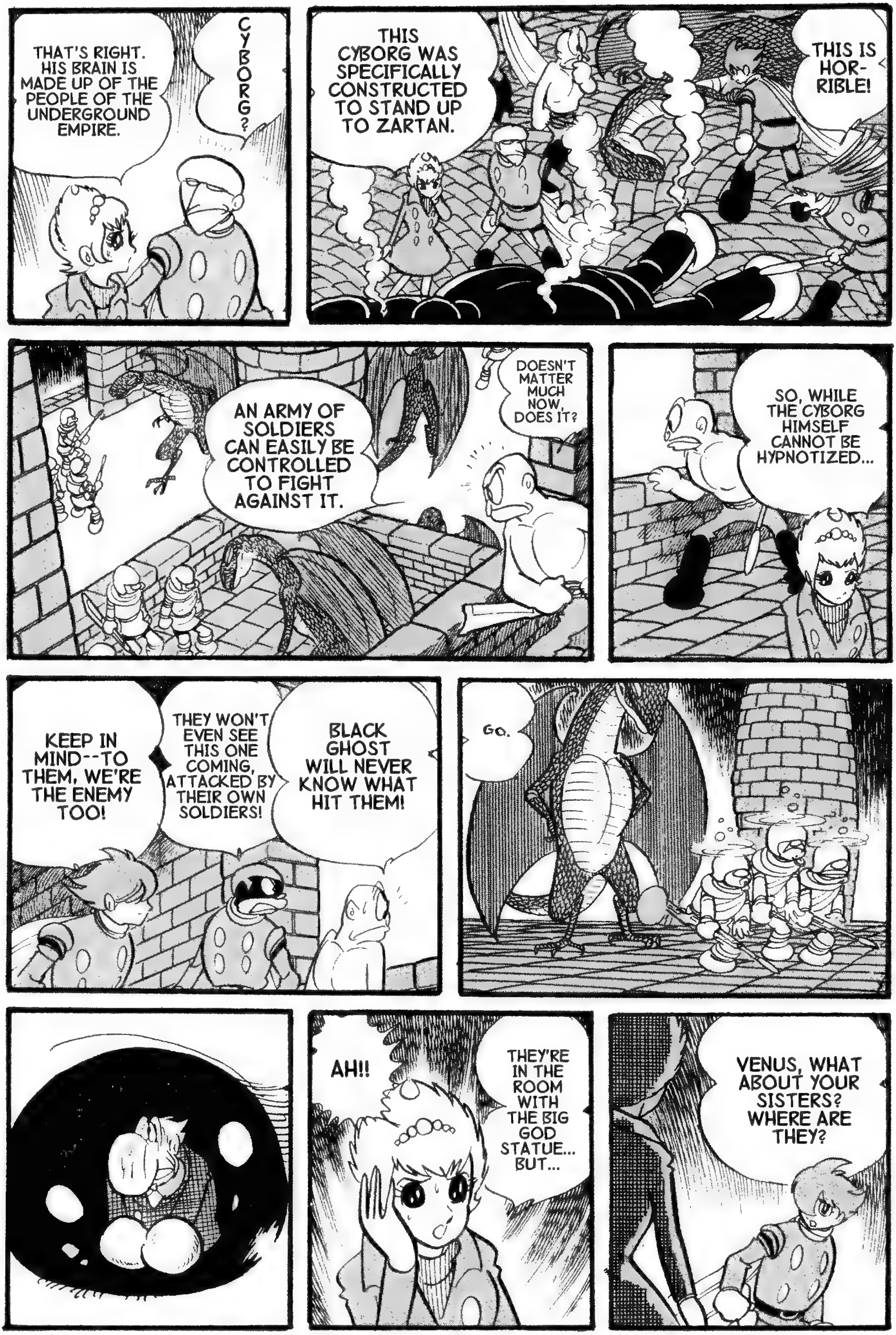

NOW IT ALL MAKES SENSE!
THAT'S WHY THERE WAS NO REMOTE CONTROL ON THE OTHER MONSTER WE FOUND. HE WAS UNDER ZARTAN'S POWER!
THE ULTRASONIC WAVE MONSTERS THAT ATTACKED THE SURFACE WERE UNDER BLACK GHOST'S CONTROL...
BUT ZARTAN MANAGED TO HYPNOTIZE THESE BEASTS WHILE HE WAS IMPRISONED.
WHOOOM
THINGS DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD FOR BLACK GHOST. EVERY MINUTE, THEY'RE LOSING MORE AND MORE...
...TANKS, PLANES... THEIR FORCES ARE BEING DESTROYED, IN SHAMBLES!

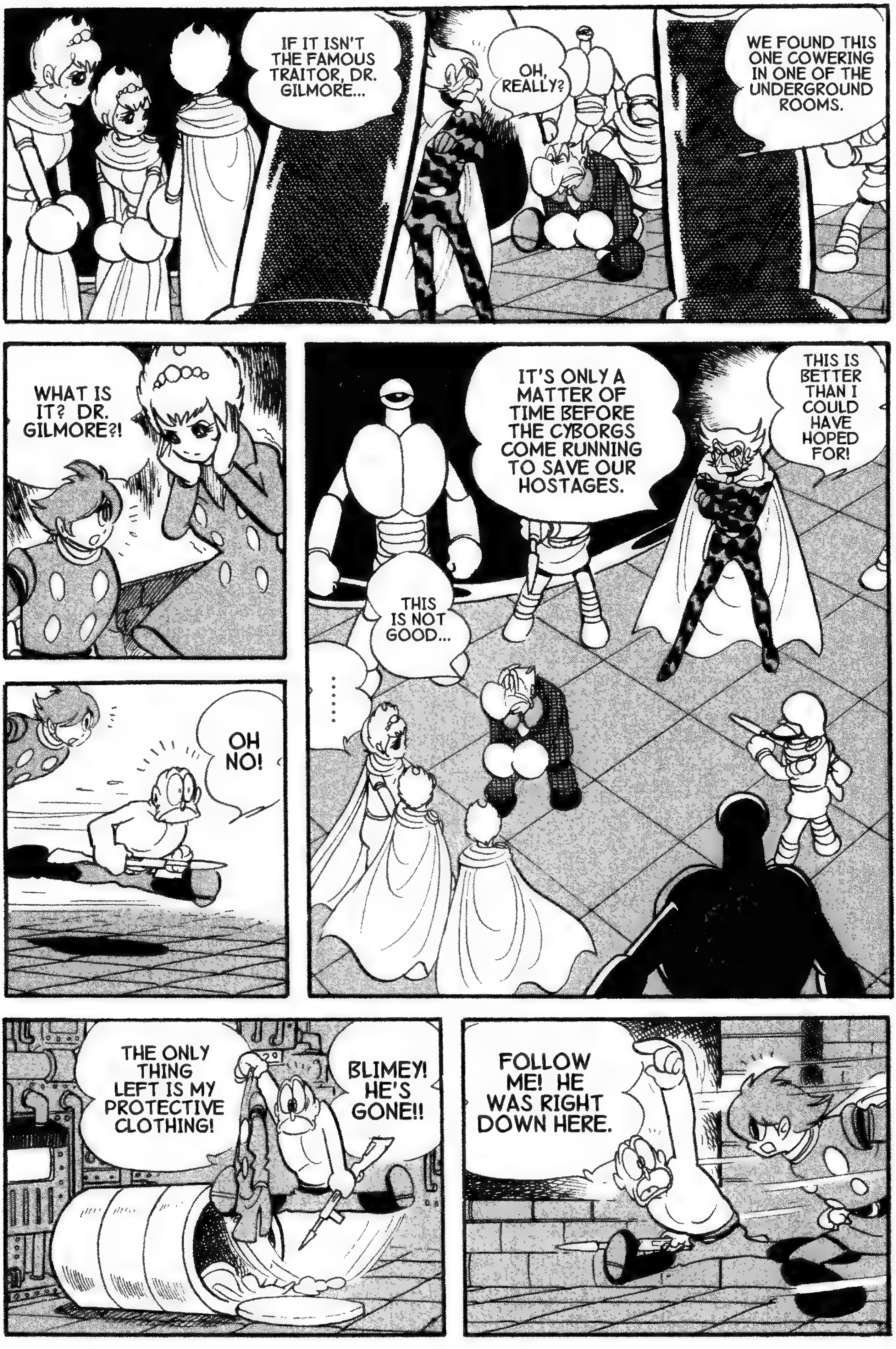

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY BLACK GHOST HASN'T ACTIVATED IT'S ANTI-ULTRASONIC WAVE MACHINES YET.
ANTI... ULTRA-SONIC WAVE MACHINES? THEY HAVE THOSE?
SKREEEEEEE
SKREEEEE

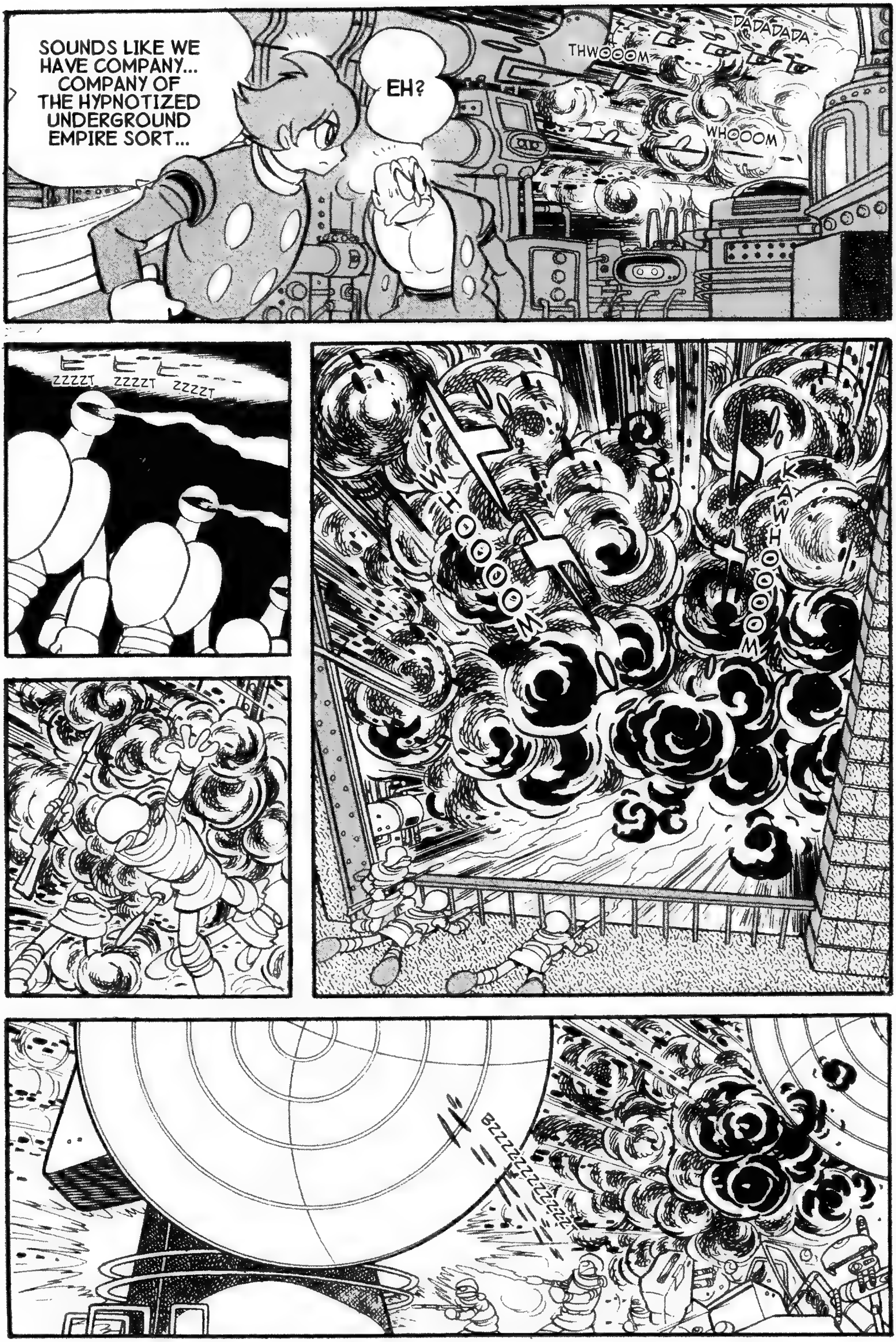

SKREEE
SKREEEEE
SPLURT
SCREE.
HUH?
FLAP

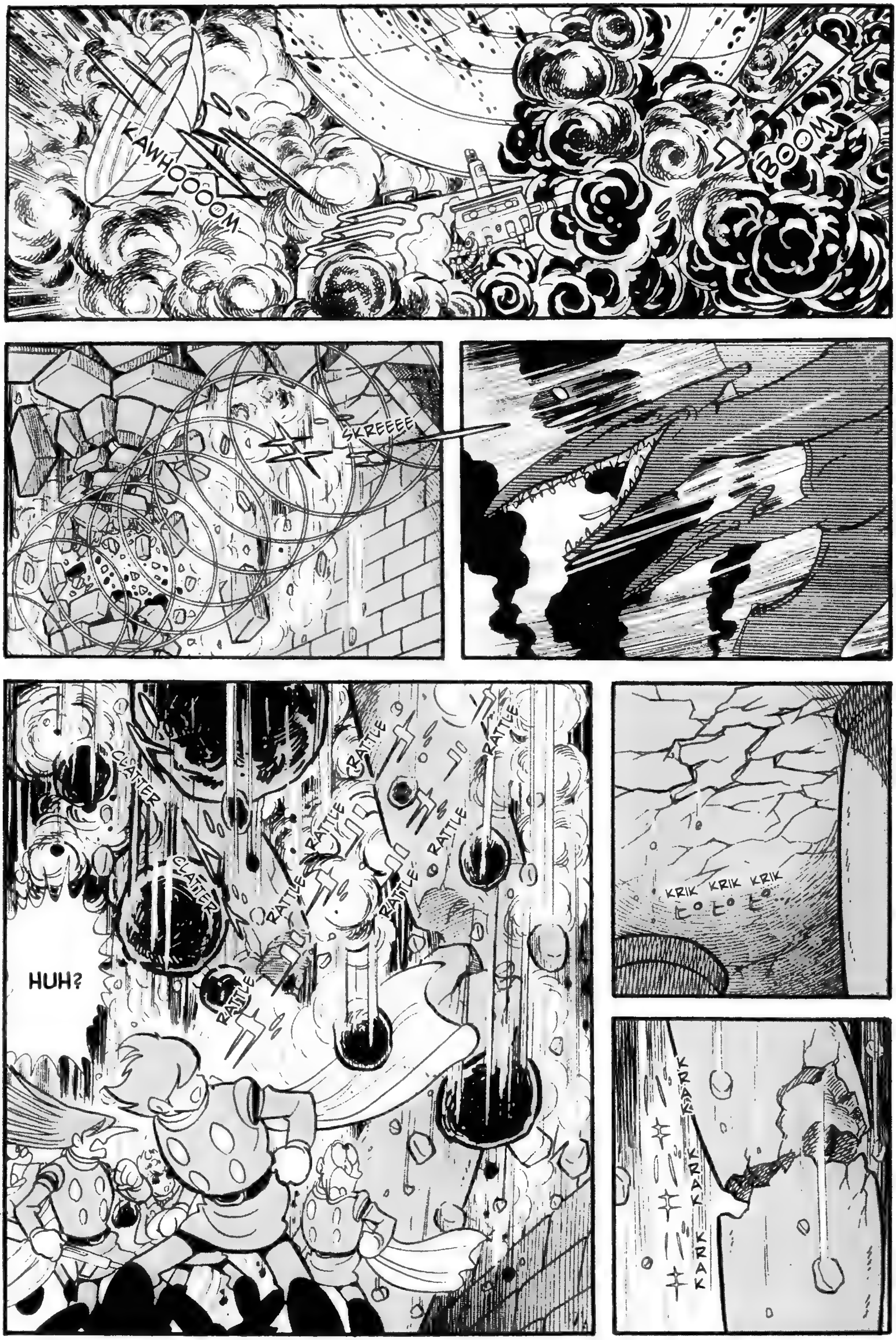

...!
WAAH, IT'S ZARTAN!
GO.
HU HU HU... YOU WORK FOR ME, NOW.
...
......
TURN YOUR WEAPONS AGAINST THE SURFACE-DWELLERS.
WHA...?

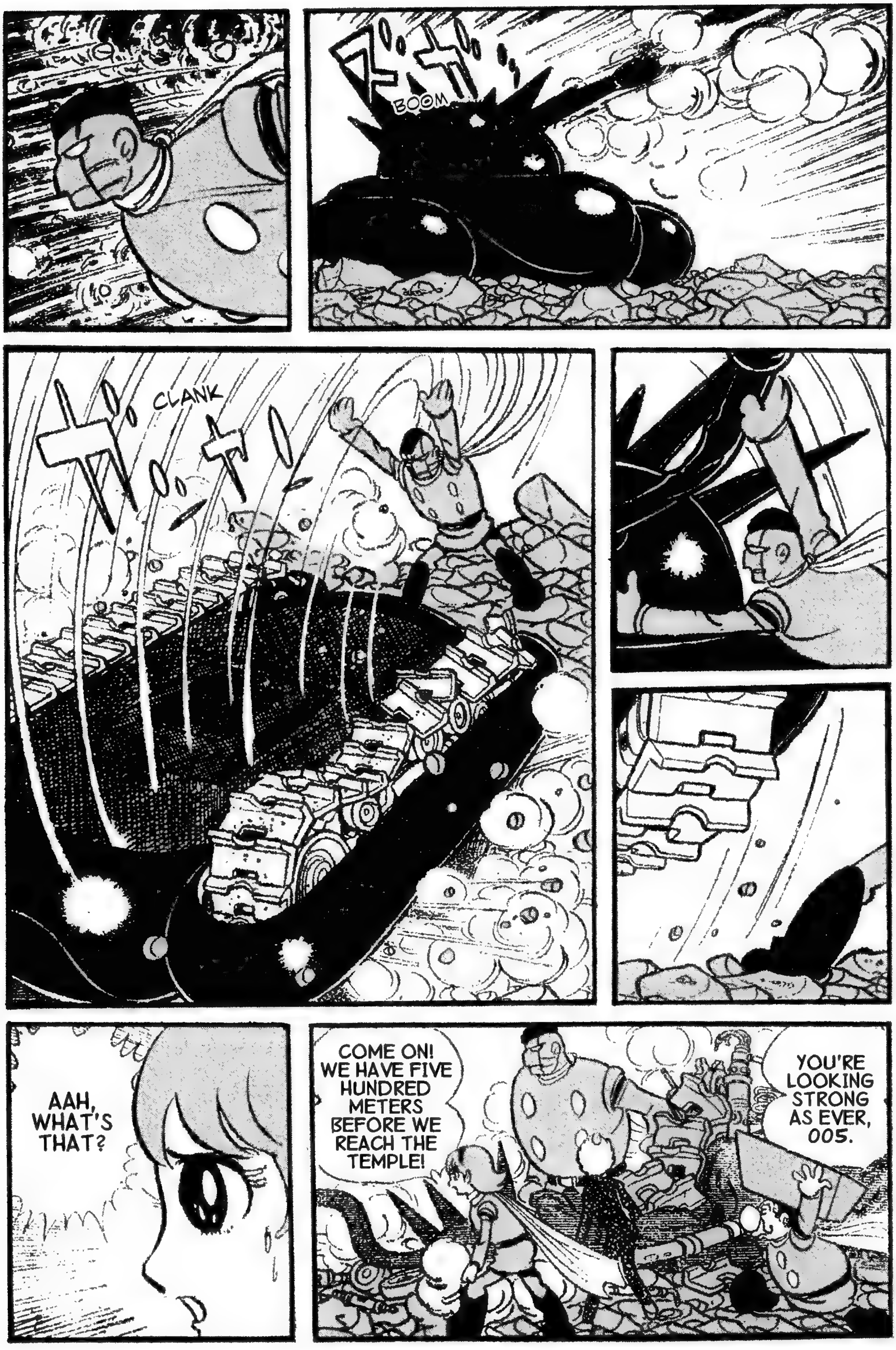

ZZZZZT
ZZZZZZZZZT
ZZZZT
ZZZZT
BZZZZZZZZZT
WHOOOM
...!
...
ドカ
WHUMP

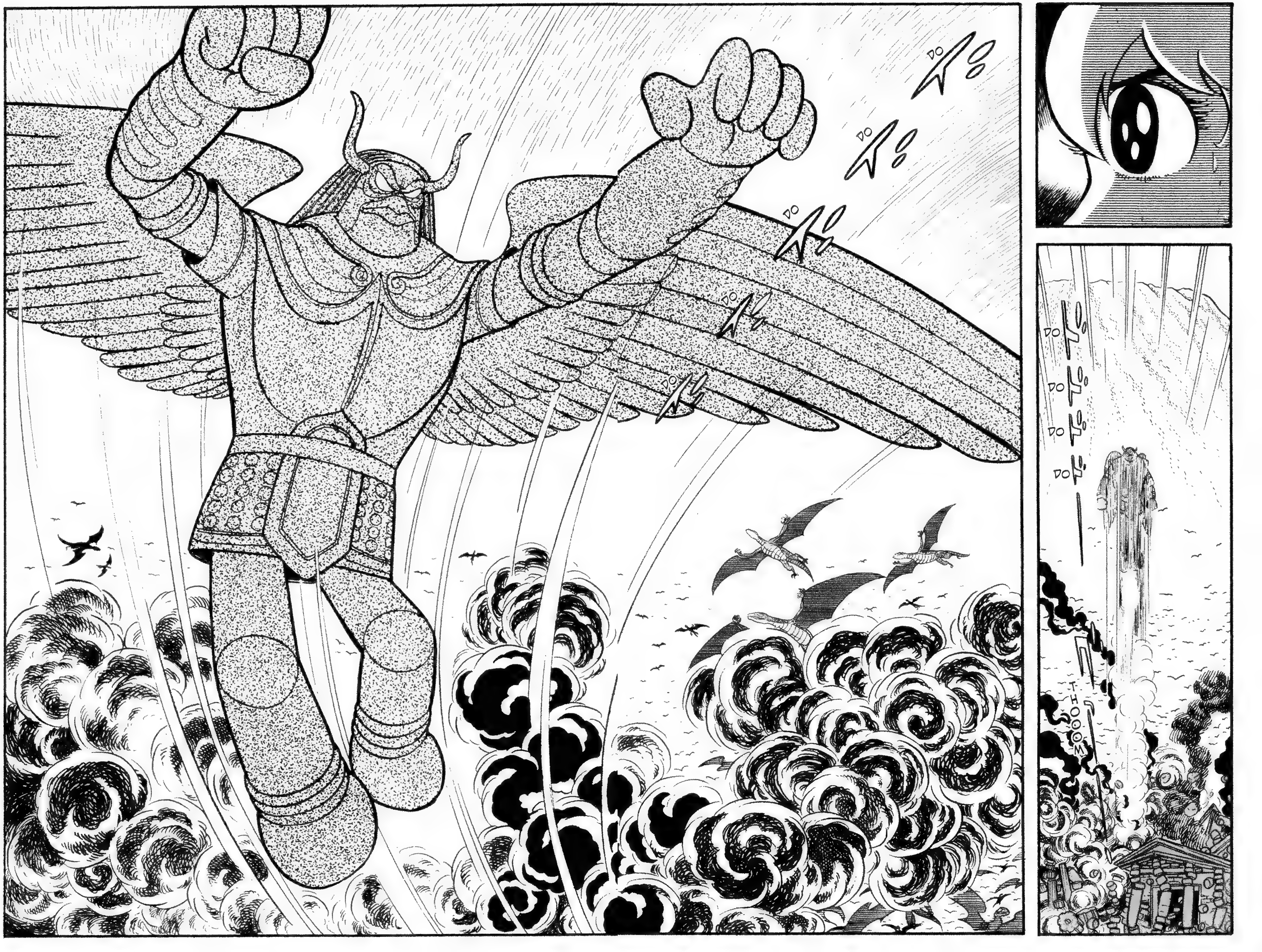

THIS IS HOR-RIBLE!
THIS CYBORG WAS SPECIFICALLY CONSTRUCTED TO STAND UP TO ZARTAN.
CYBORG?
THAT'S RIGHT. HIS BRAIN IS MADE UP OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE.
SO, WHILE THE CYBORG HIMSELF CANNOT BE HYPNOTIZED...
DOESN'T MATTER MUCH NOW, DOES IT?
AN ARMY OF SOLDIERS CAN EASILY BE CONTROLLED TO FIGHT AGAINST IT.
GO.
BLACK GHOST WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!
THEY WON'T EVEN SEE THIS ONE COMING, ATTACKED BY THEIR OWN SOLDIERS!
KEEP IN MIND--TO THEM, WE'RE THE ENEMY TOO!
VENUS, WHAT ABOUT YOUR SISTERS? WHERE ARE THEY?
THEY'RE IN THE ROOM WITH THE BIG GOD STATUE... BUT...
AH!!

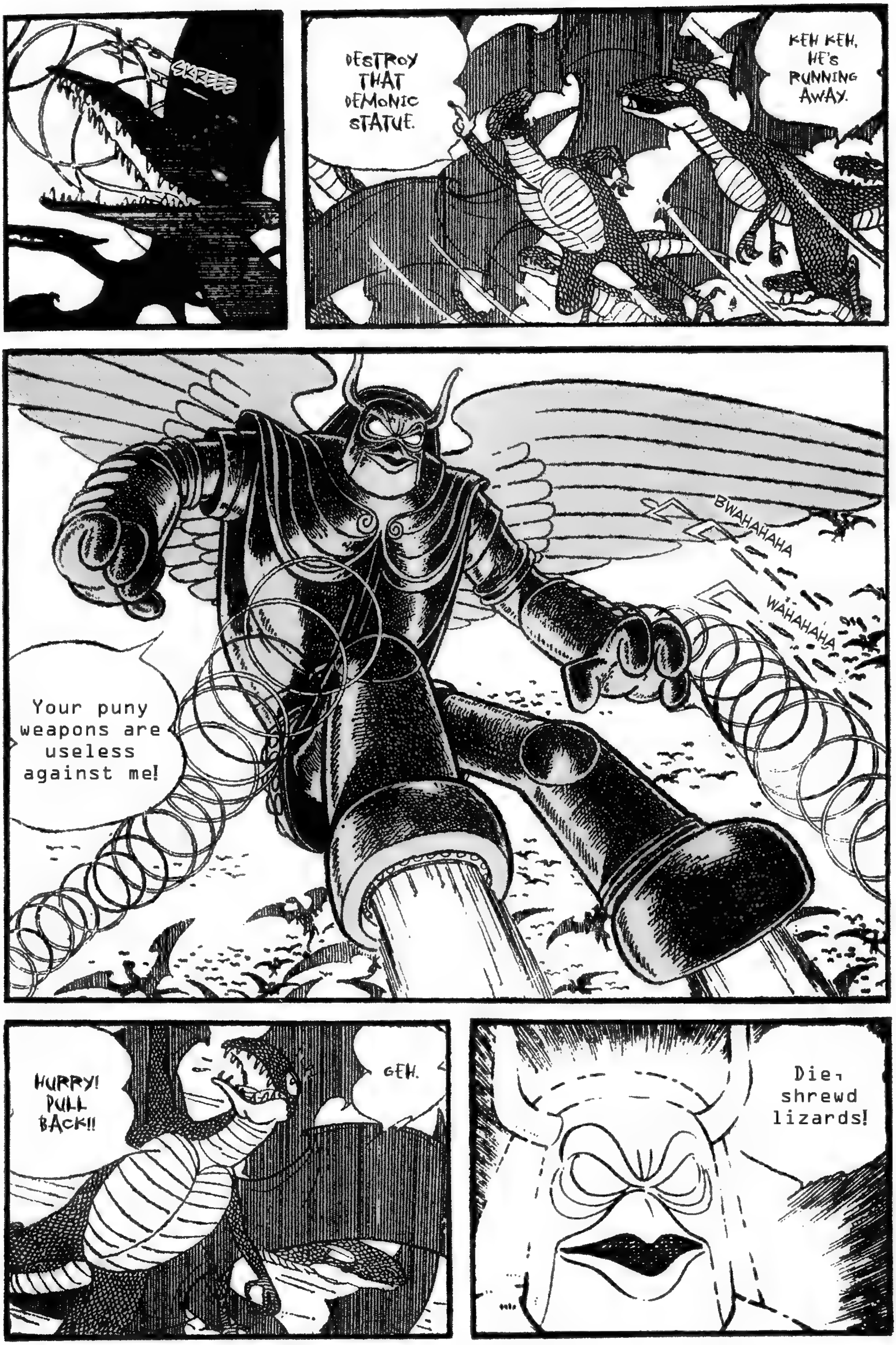

WE FOUND THIS ONE COWERING IN ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND ROOMS.
OH, REALLY?
IF IT ISN'T THE FAMOUS TRAITOR, DR. GILMORE...
THIS IS BETTER THAN I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR!
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THE CYBORGS COME RUNNING TO SAVE OUR HOSTAGES.
THIS IS NOT GOOD...
......
WHAT IS IT? DR. GILMORE?!
OH NO!
FOLLOW ME! HE WAS RIGHT DOWN HERE.
BLIMEY! HE'S GONE!!
THE ONLY THING LEFT IS MY PROTECTIVE CLOTHING!

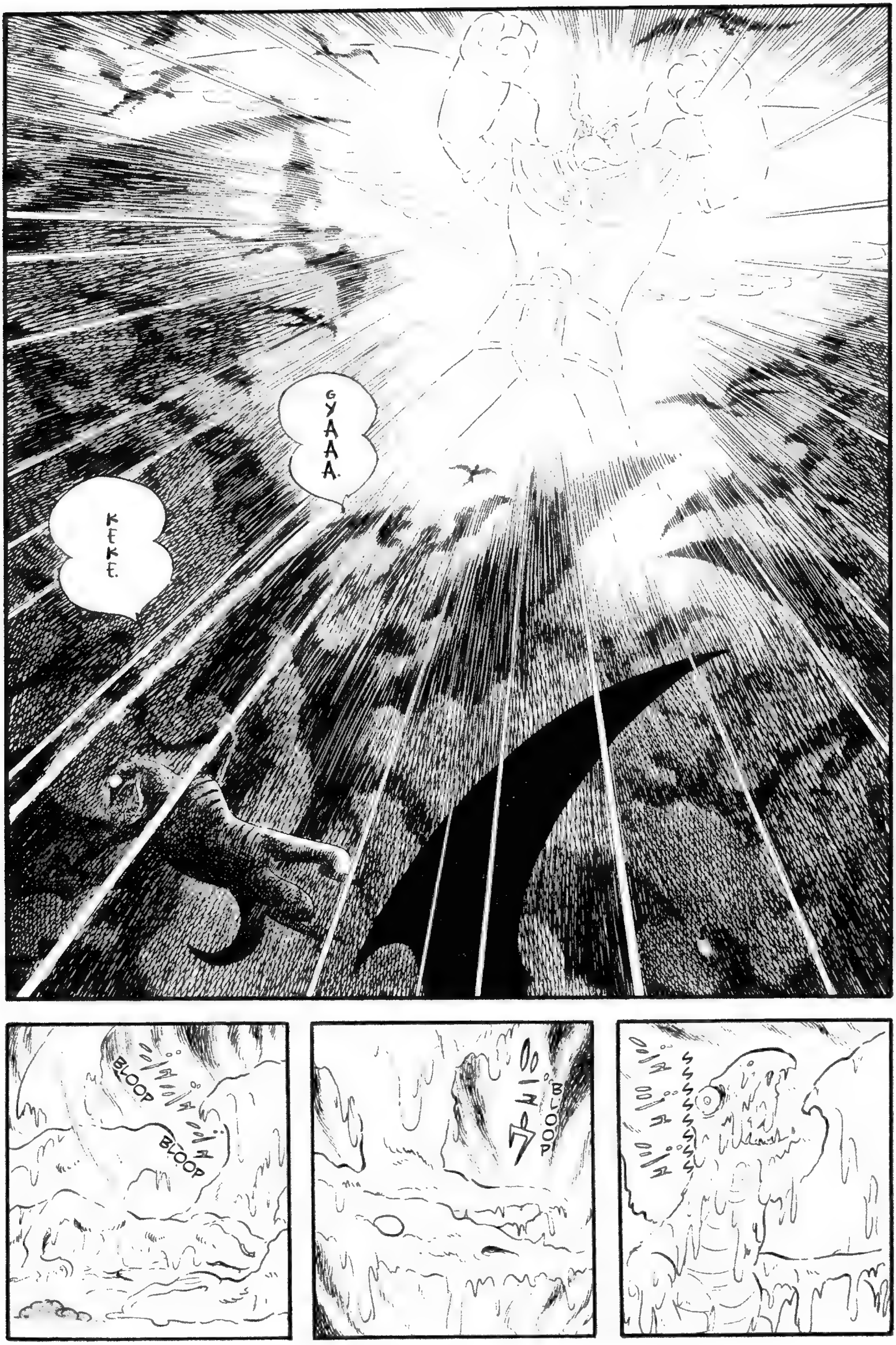

SOUNDS LIKE WE HAVE COMPANY... COMPANY OF THE HYPNOTIZED UNDERGROUND EMPIRE SORT...
EH?
THWOOOM
DADADADA
WHOOOM
ZZZZT ZZZZT ZZZZT
WHOOOOM
KAWHOOOOOM
BZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

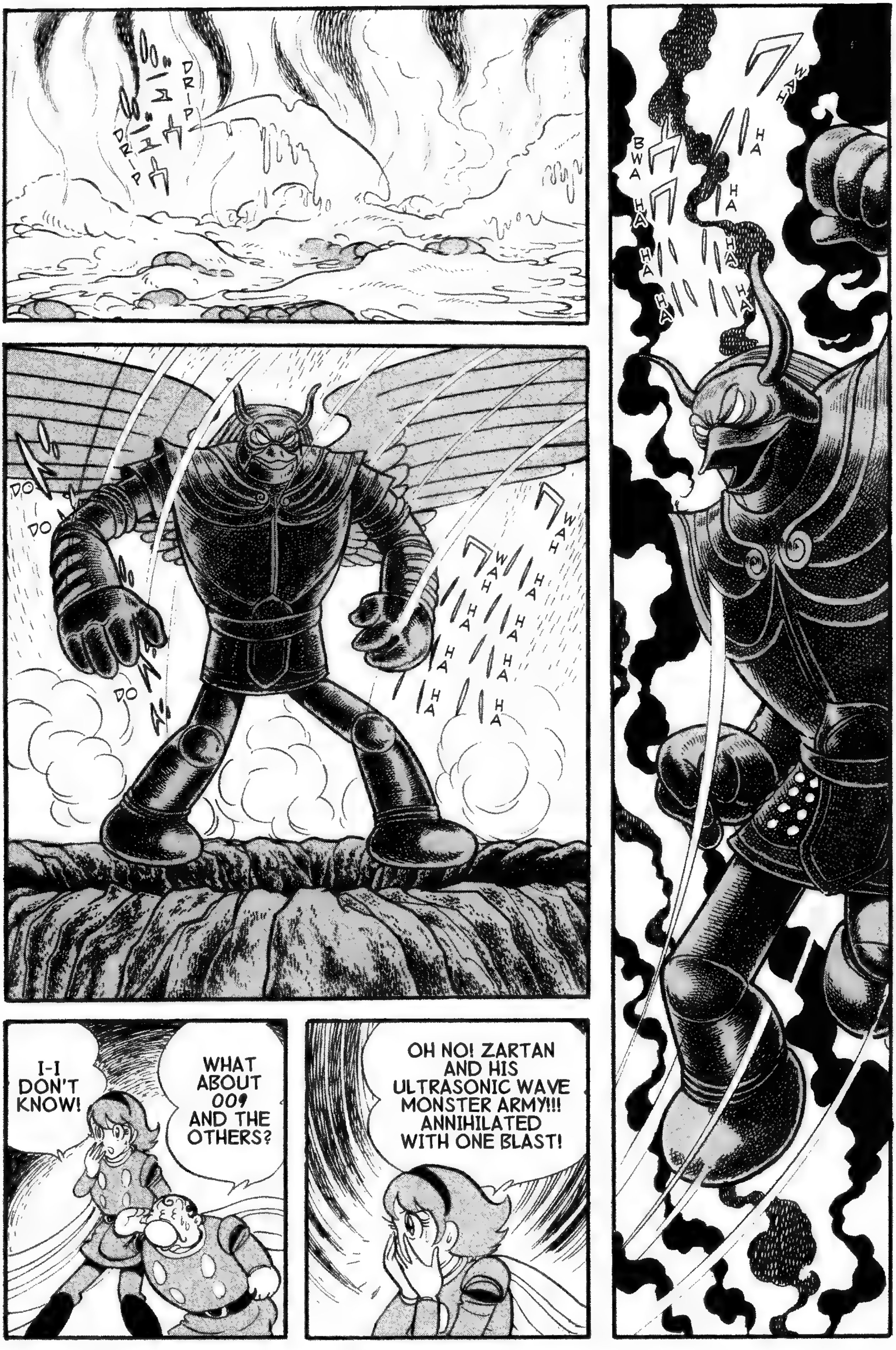

KAWHOOOOM
BOOM
SKREEEEE
CLATTER
CLATTER
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
HUH?
KRIK KRIK KRIK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK

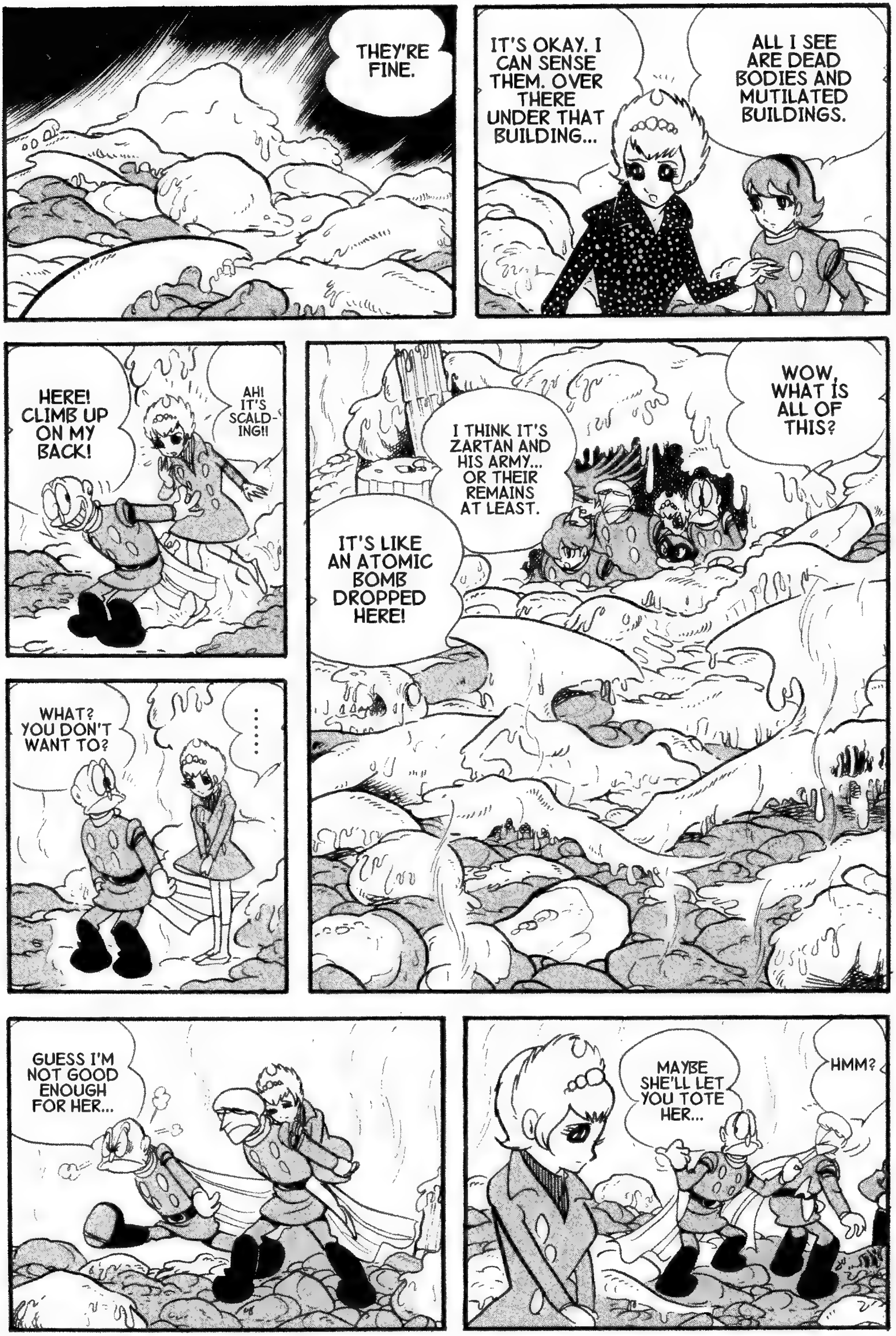

BOOM
CLANK
YOU'RE LOOKING STRONG AS EVER, 005.
COME ON! WE HAVE FIVE HUNDRED METERS BEFORE WE REACH THE TEMPLE!
AAH, WHAT'S THAT?

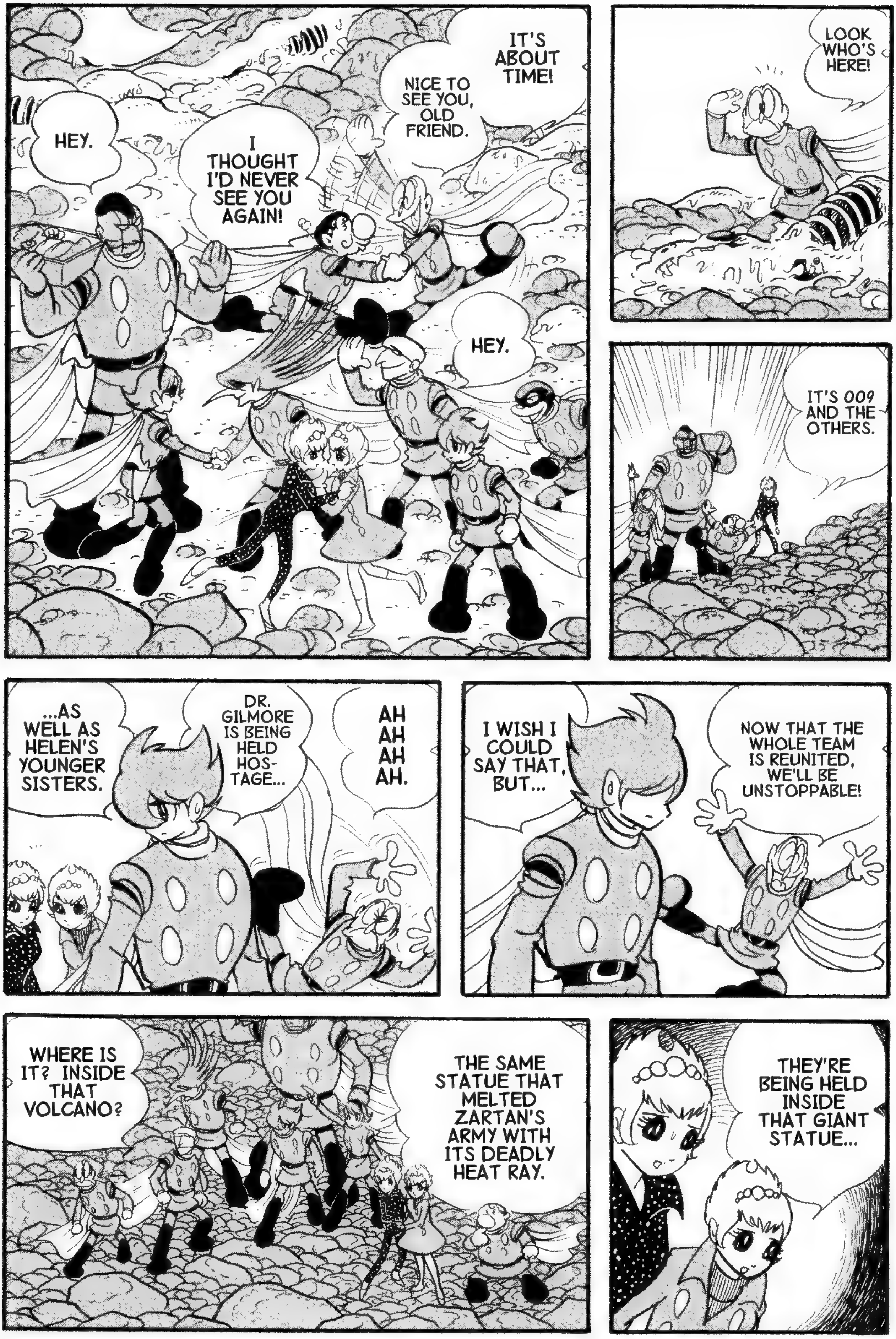

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
THOOOM

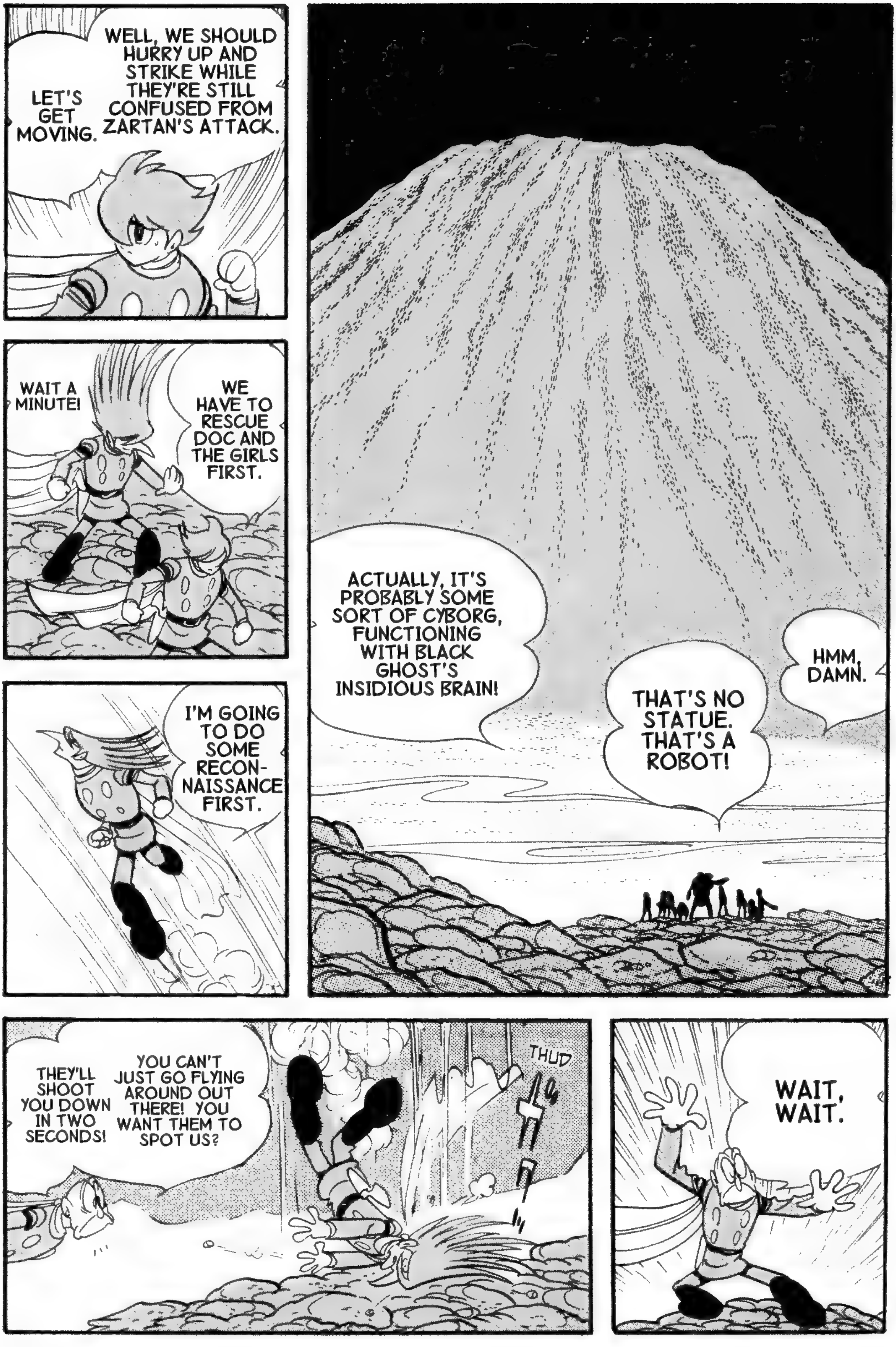

SKREEE
DESTROY THAT DEMONIC STATUE.
KEH KEH, HE'S RUNNING AWAY.
Your puny weapons are useless against me!
BWAHAHAHA
WAHAHAHA
HURRY! PULL BACK!!
GEH.
Die, shrewd lizards!

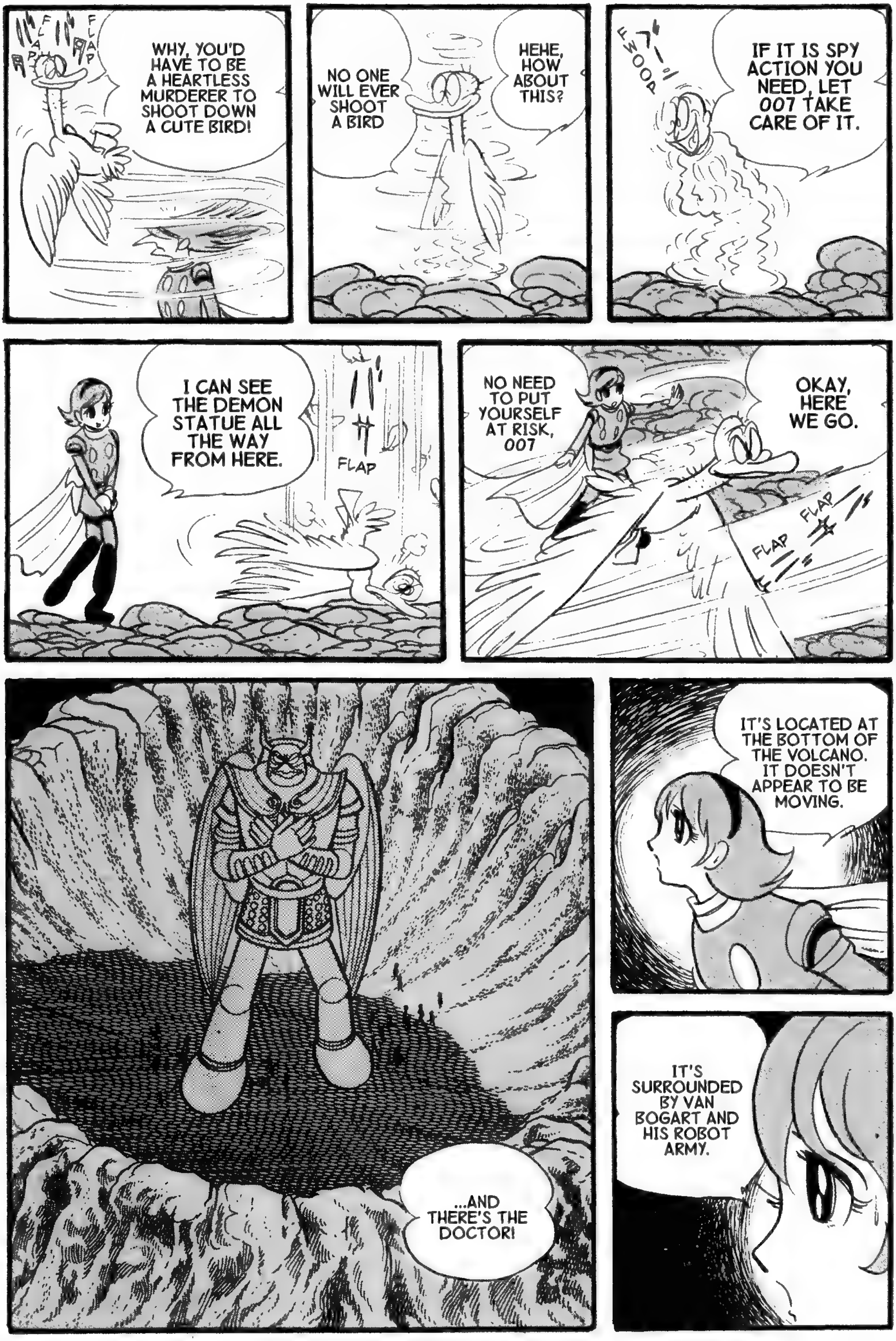

GYAAA.
KEKE.
BLOOP
BLOOP
BLOOP
SSSSSSSSS

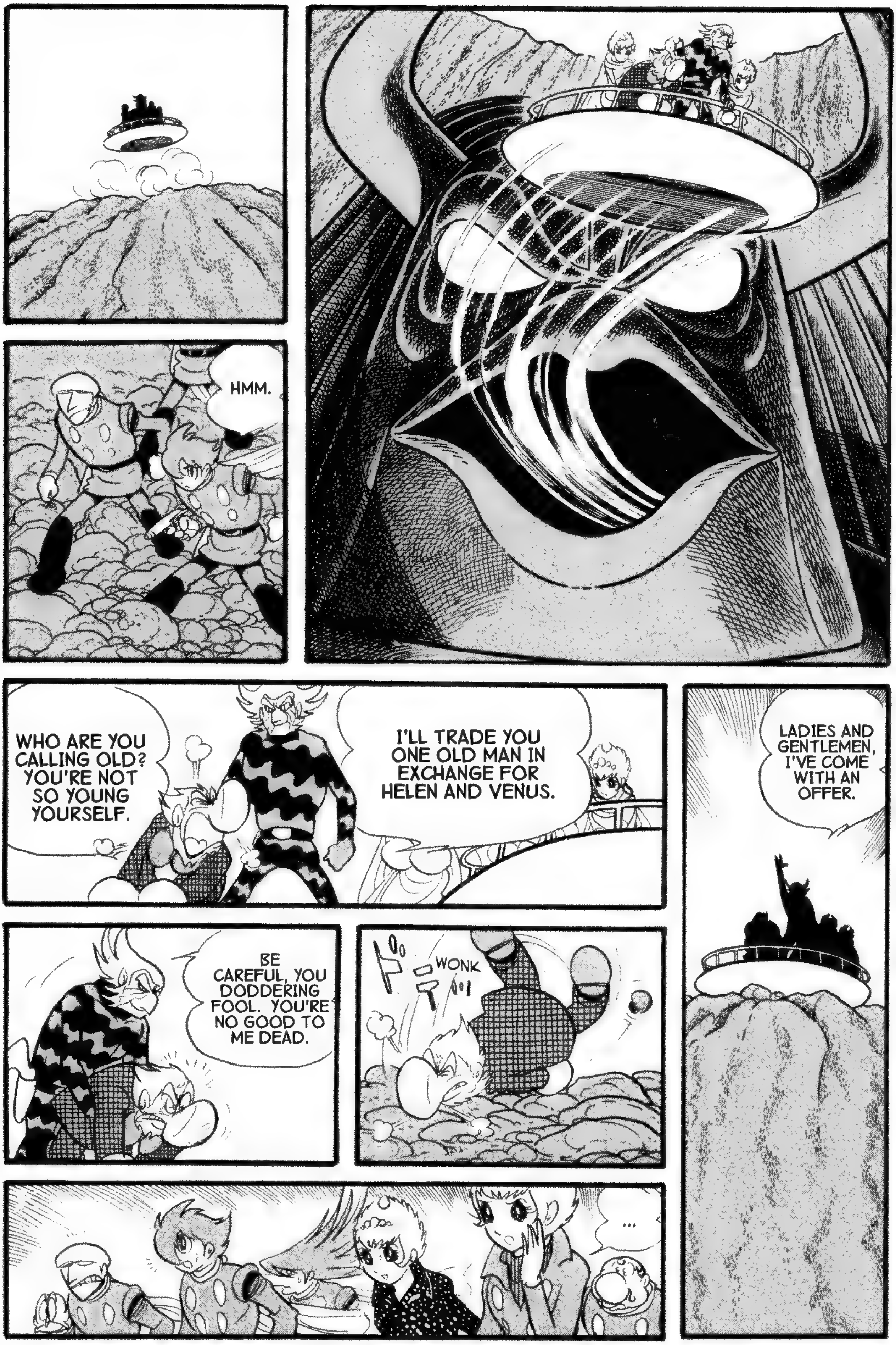

BWA HA HA HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA
DRIP
DRIP
DO
DO
DO
WAH HA HA HA HA
WAH HA HA HA HA HA
OH NO! ZARTAN AND HIS ULTRASONIC WAVE MONSTER ARMY!!! ANNIHILATED WITH ONE BLAST!
WHAT ABOUT 009 AND THE OTHERS?
I-I DON'T KNOW!

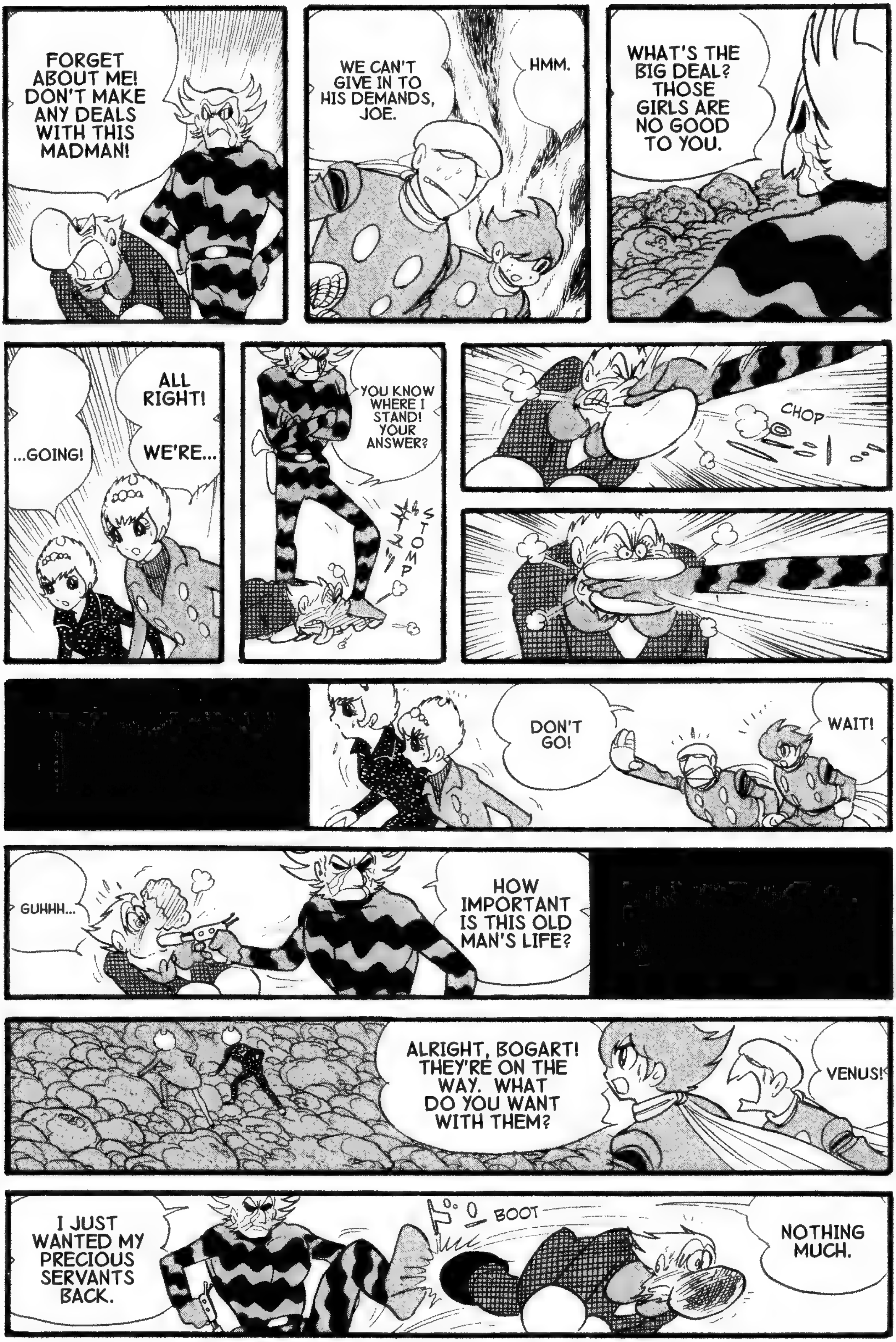

THEY'RE FINE.
IT'S OKAY. I CAN SENSE THEM. OVER THERE UNDER THAT BUILDING...
ALL I SEE ARE DEAD BODIES AND MUTILATED BUILDINGS.
HERE! CLIMB UP ON MY BACK!
AH! IT'S SCALDING!!
WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT TO?
......
WOW, WHAT IS ALL OF THIS?
I THINK IT'S ZARTAN AND HIS ARMY... OR THEIR REMAINS AT LEAST.
IT'S LIKE AN ATOMIC BOMB DROPPED HERE!
GUESS I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HER...
MAYBE SHE'LL LET YOU TOTE HER...
HMM?

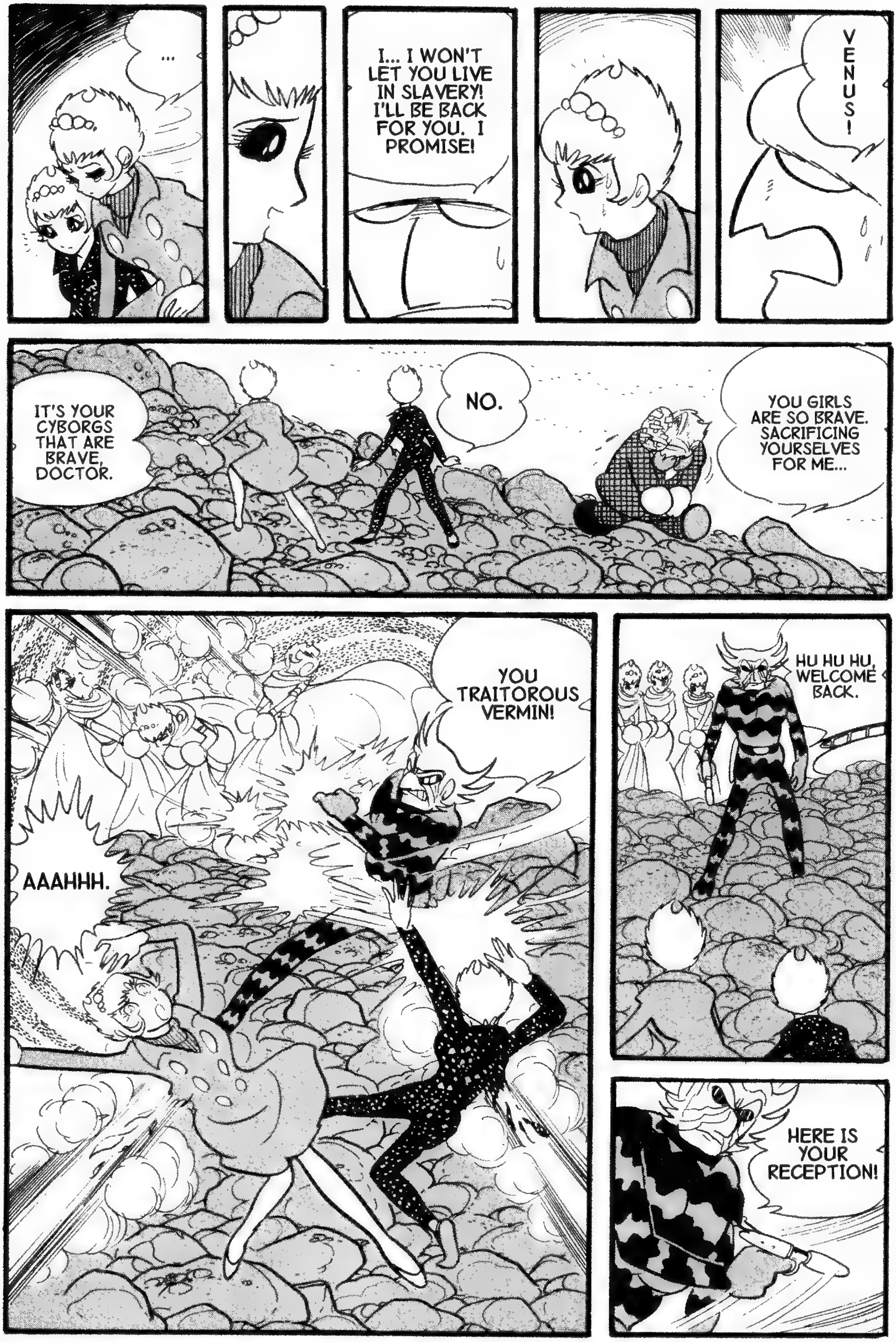

LOOK WHO'S HERE!
IT'S 009 AND THE OTHERS.
IT'S ABOUT TIME!
NICE TO SEE YOU, OLD FRIEND.
HEY.
I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN!
HEY.
NOW THAT THE WHOLE TEAM IS REUNITED, WE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE!
I WISH I COULD SAY THAT, BUT...
AH AH AH AH.
DR. GILMORE IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE...
...AS WELL AS HELEN'S YOUNGER SISTERS.
THEY'RE BEING HELD INSIDE THAT GIANT STATUE...
THE SAME STATUE THAT MELTED ZARTAN'S ARMY WITH ITS DEADLY HEAT RAY.
WHERE IS IT? INSIDE THAT VOLCANO?

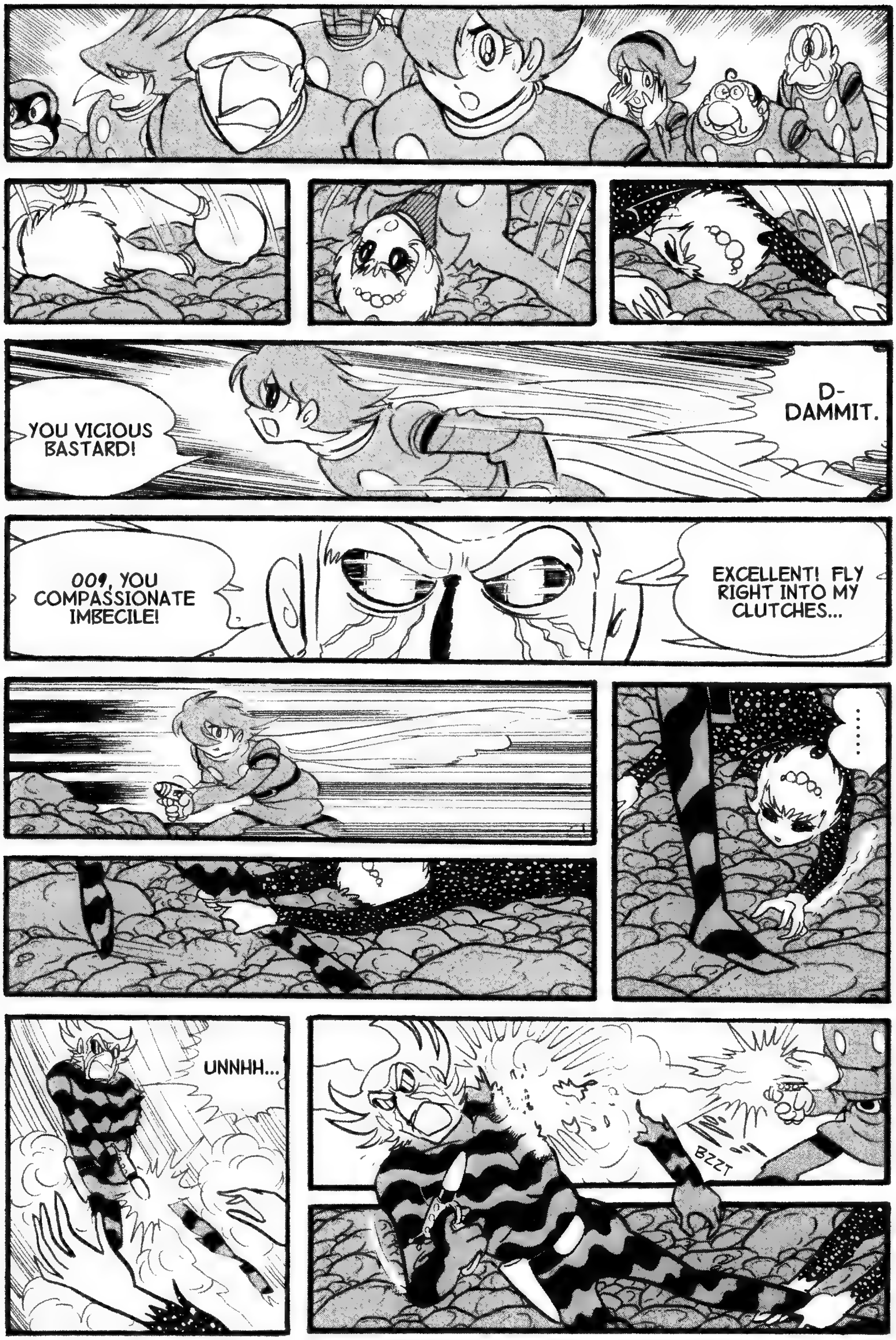

WELL, WE SHOULD HURRY UP AND STRIKE WHILE THEY'RE STILL CONFUSED FROM ZARTAN'S ATTACK.
LET'S GET MOVING.
WAIT A MINUTE!
WE HAVE TO RESCUE DOC AND THE GIRLS FIRST.
I'M GOING TO DO SOME RECONNAISSANCE FIRST.
HMM, DAMN.
THAT'S NO STATUE. THAT'S A ROBOT!
ACTUALLY, IT'S PROBABLY SOME SORT OF CYBORG, FUNCTIONING WITH BLACK GHOST'S INSIDIOUS BRAIN!
YOU CAN'T JUST GO FLYING AROUND OUT THERE! YOU WANT THEM TO SPOT US?
THEY'LL SHOOT YOU DOWN IN TWO SECONDS!
THUD
WAIT, WAIT.

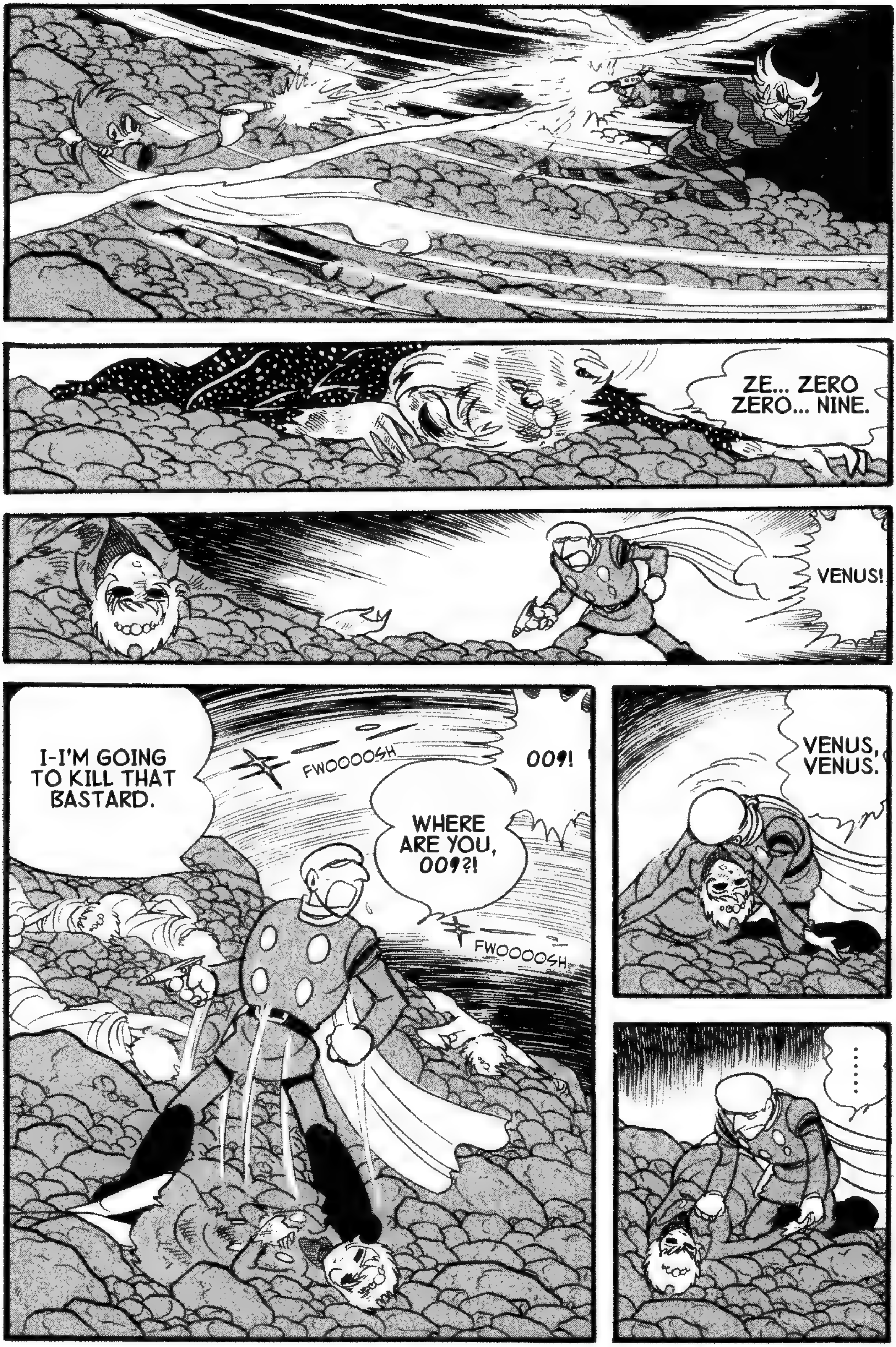

FLAP FLAP
WHY, YOU'D HAVE TO BE A HEARTLESS MURDERER TO SHOOT DOWN A CUTE BIRD!
NO ONE WILL EVER SHOOT A BIRD
HEHE, HOW ABOUT THIS?
FWOOP
IF IT IS SPY ACTION YOU NEED, LET 007 TAKE CARE OF IT.
I CAN SEE THE DEMON STATUE ALL THE WAY FROM HERE.
FLAP
NO NEED TO PUT YOURSELF AT RISK, 007
OKAY, HERE WE GO.
FLAP FLAP
...AND THERE'S THE DOCTOR!
IT'S LOCATED AT THE BOTTOM OF THE VOLCANO. IT DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE MOVING.
IT'S SURROUNDED BY VAN BOGART AND HIS ROBOT ARMY.

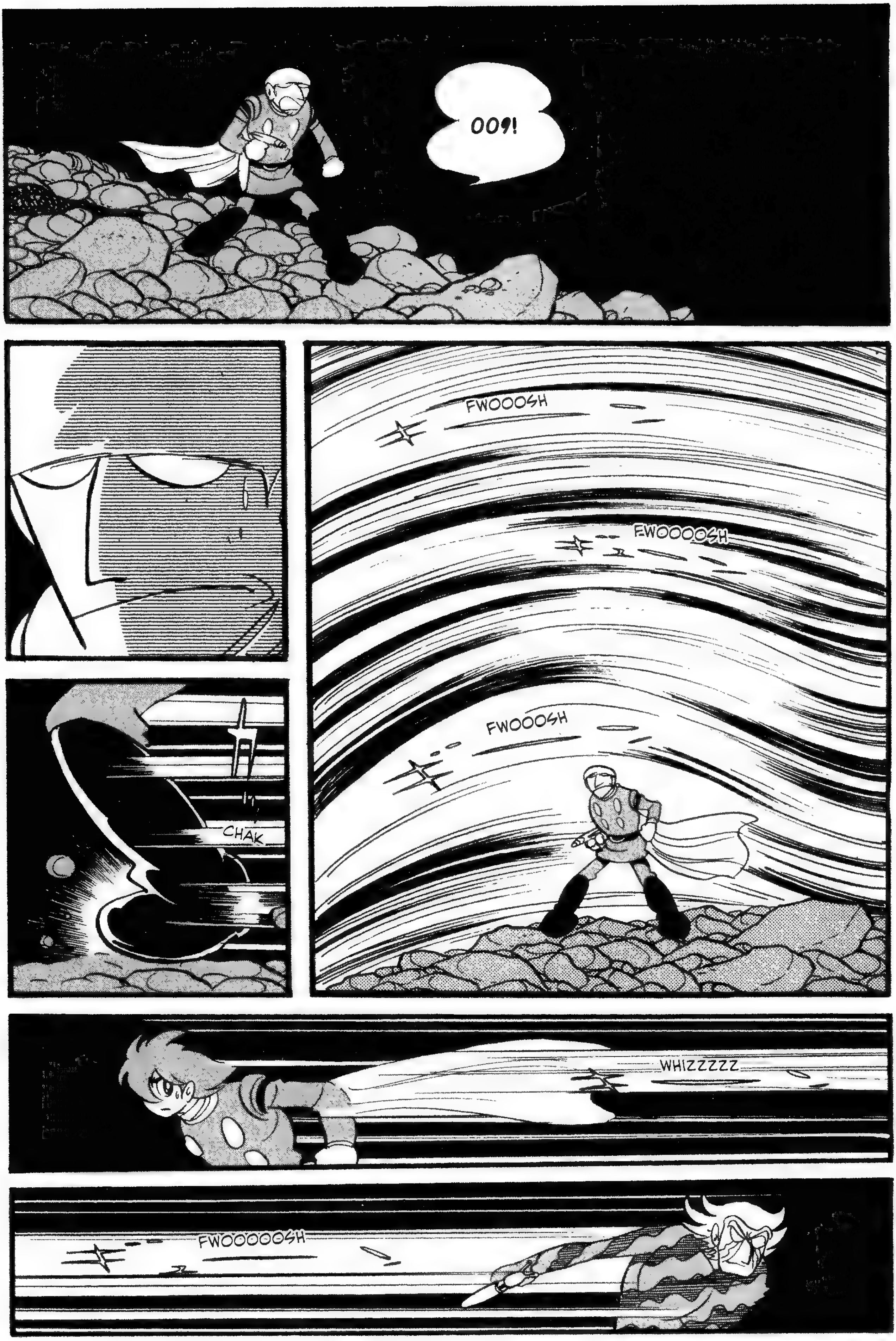

HMM.
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I'VE COME WITH AN OFFER.
I'LL TRADE YOU ONE OLD MAN IN EXCHANGE FOR HELEN AND VENUS.
WHO ARE YOU CALLING OLD? YOU'RE NOT SO YOUNG YOURSELF.
WONK
BE CAREFUL, YOU DODDERING FOOL. YOU'RE NO GOOD TO ME DEAD.
...

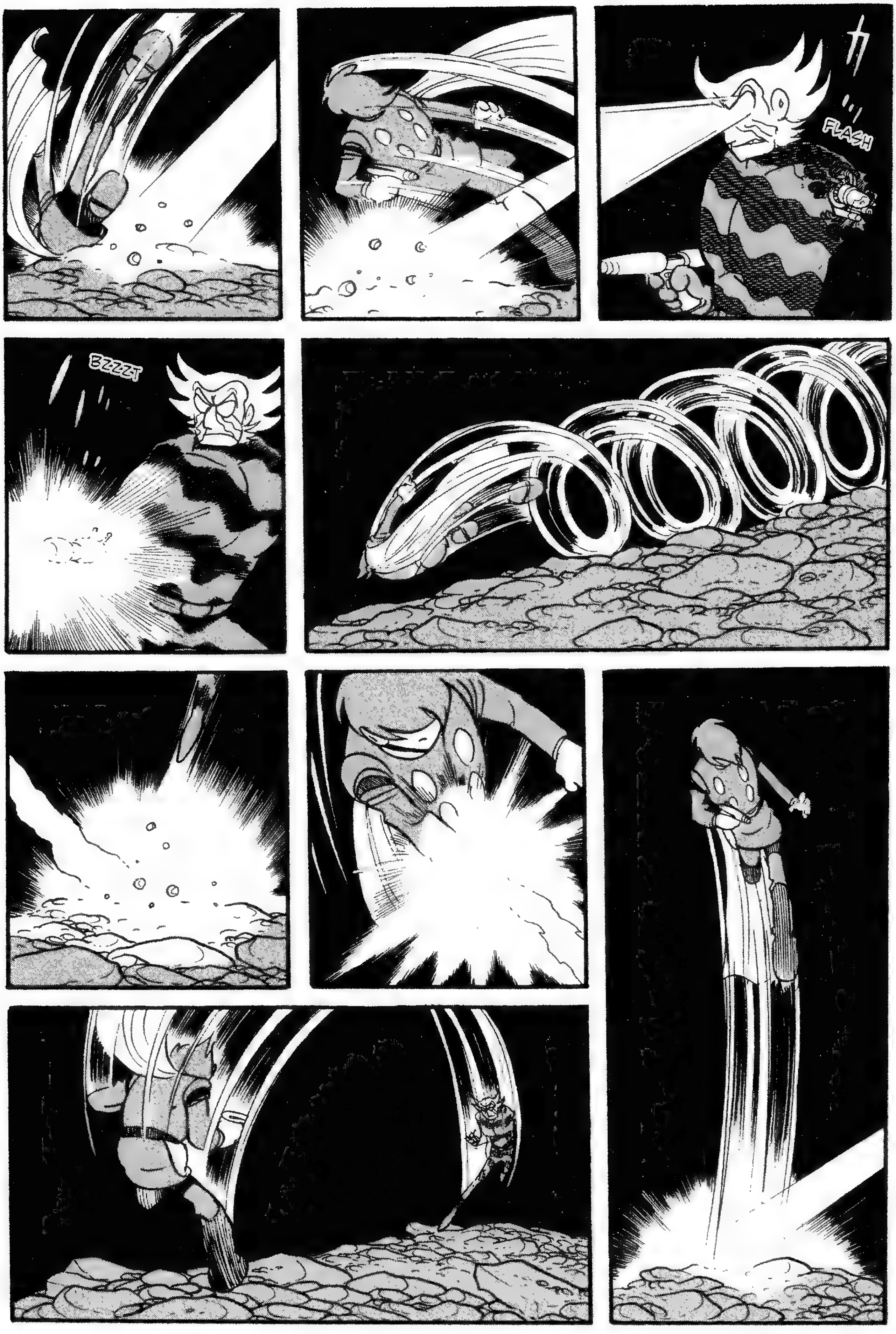

FORGET ABOUT ME! DON'T MAKE ANY DEALS WITH THIS MADMAN!
HMM.
WE CAN'T GIVE IN TO HIS DEMANDS, JOE.
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? THOSE GIRLS ARE NO GOOD TO YOU.
ALL RIGHT!
WE'RE...
...GOING!
YOU KNOW WHERE I STAND! YOUR ANSWER?
STOMP
CHOP
WAIT!
DON'T GO!
HOW IMPORTANT IS THIS OLD MAN'S LIFE?
GUHHH...
VENUS!?
ALRIGHT, BOGART! THEY'RE ON THE WAY. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THEM?
NOTHING MUCH.
BOOT
I JUST WANTED MY PRECIOUS SERVANTS BACK.

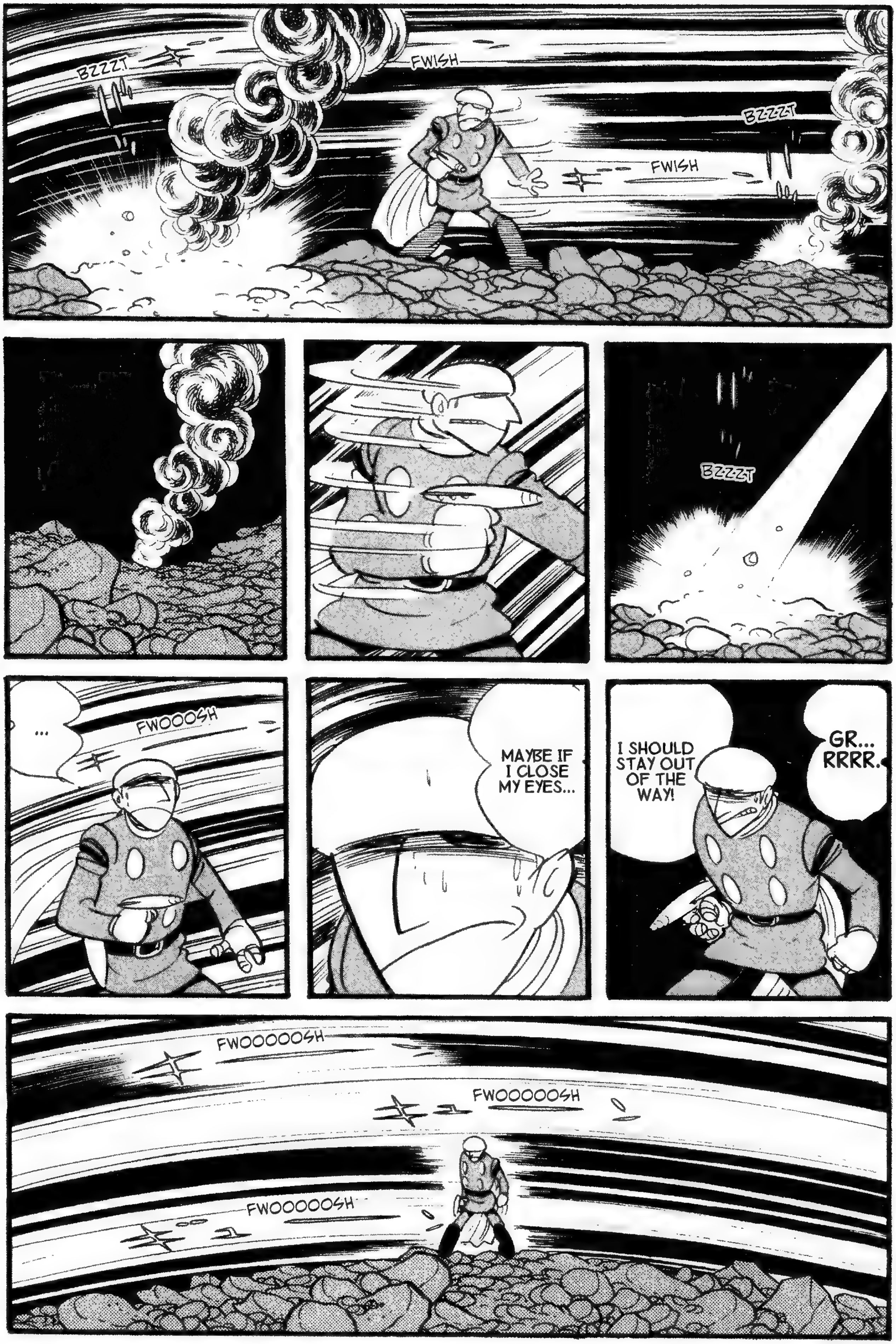

VENUS!
I... I WON'T LET YOU LIVE IN SLAVERY! I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU. I PROMISE!
...
YOU GIRLS ARE SO BRAVE. SACRIFICING YOURSELVES FOR ME...
NO.
IT'S YOUR CYBORGS THAT ARE BRAVE, DOCTOR.
HU HU HU, WELCOME BACK.
HERE IS YOUR RECEPTION!
YOU TRAITOROUS VERMIN!
AAAHHH.

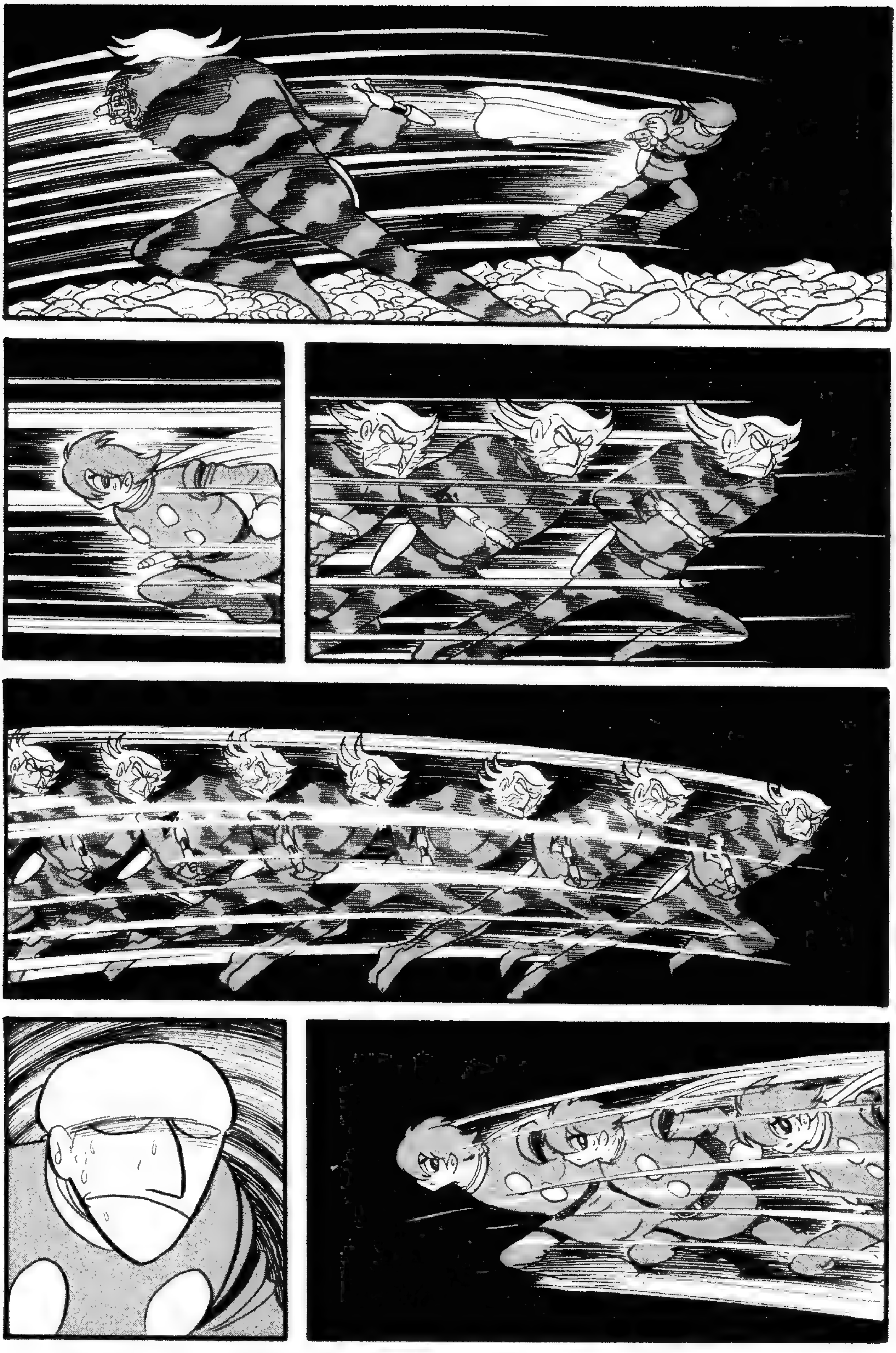

D-DAMMIT.
YOU VICIOUS BASTARD!
EXCELLENT! FLY RIGHT INTO MY CLUTCHES...
009, YOU COMPASSIONATE IMBECILE!
......
UNNHH...
BZZT

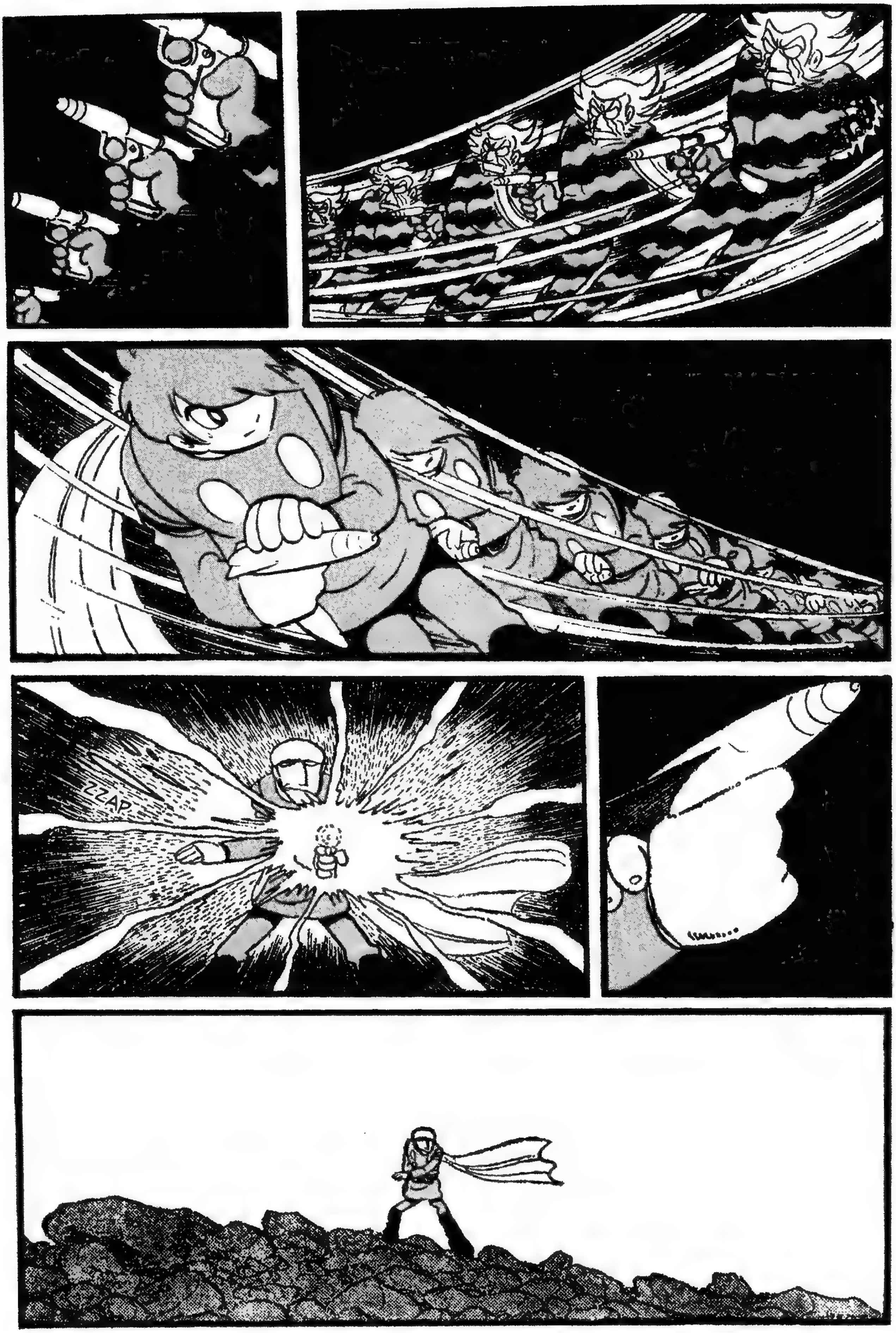

ZE... ZERO ZERO... NINE.
VENUS!
I-I'M GOING TO KILL THAT BASTARD.
FWOOOOSH
009!
WHERE ARE YOU, 009?!
FWOOOOSH
VENUS, VENUS.
......

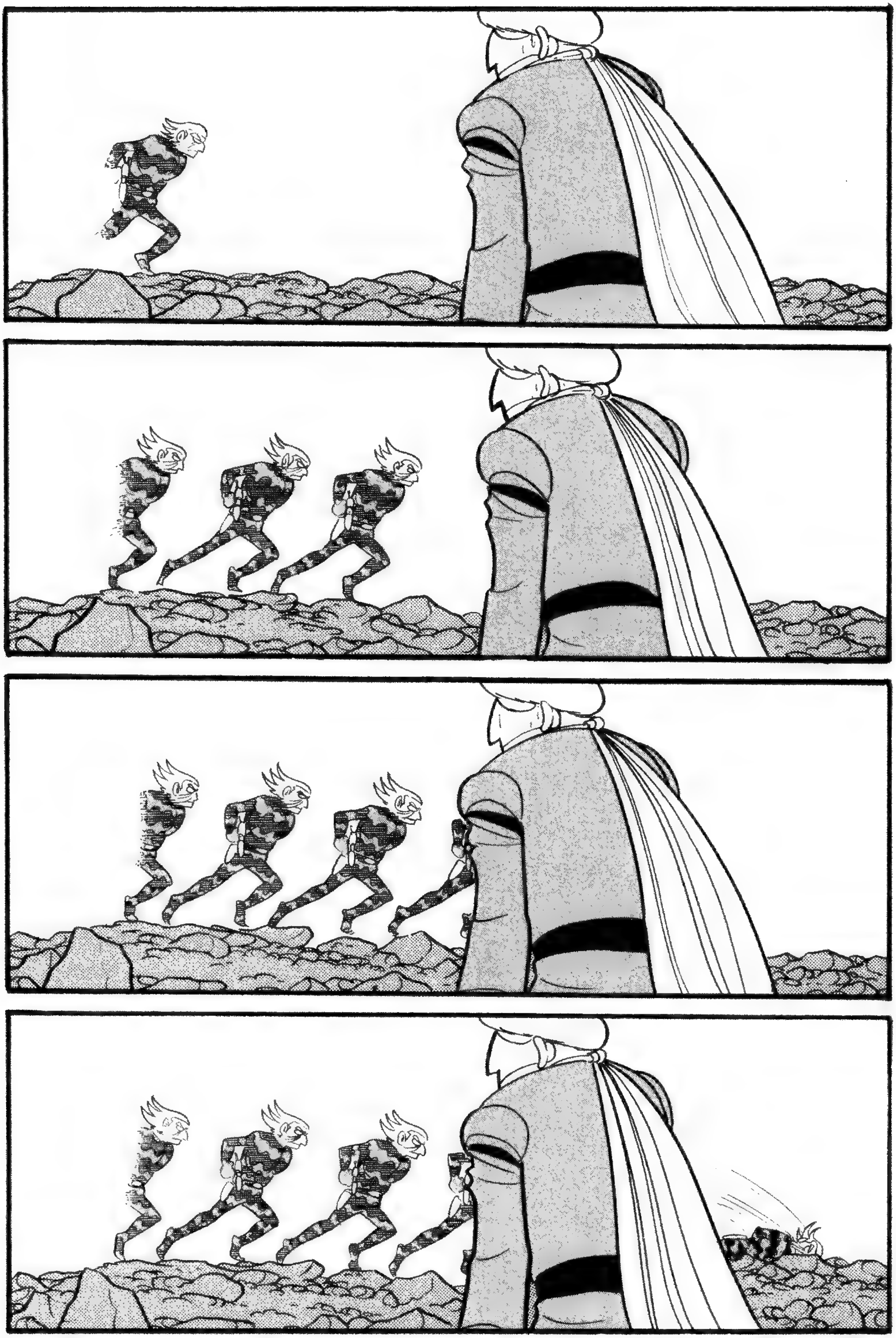

009!
CHAK
FWOOOSH
FWOOOOSH
FWOOOSH
WHIZZZZZ
FWOOOOOOSH

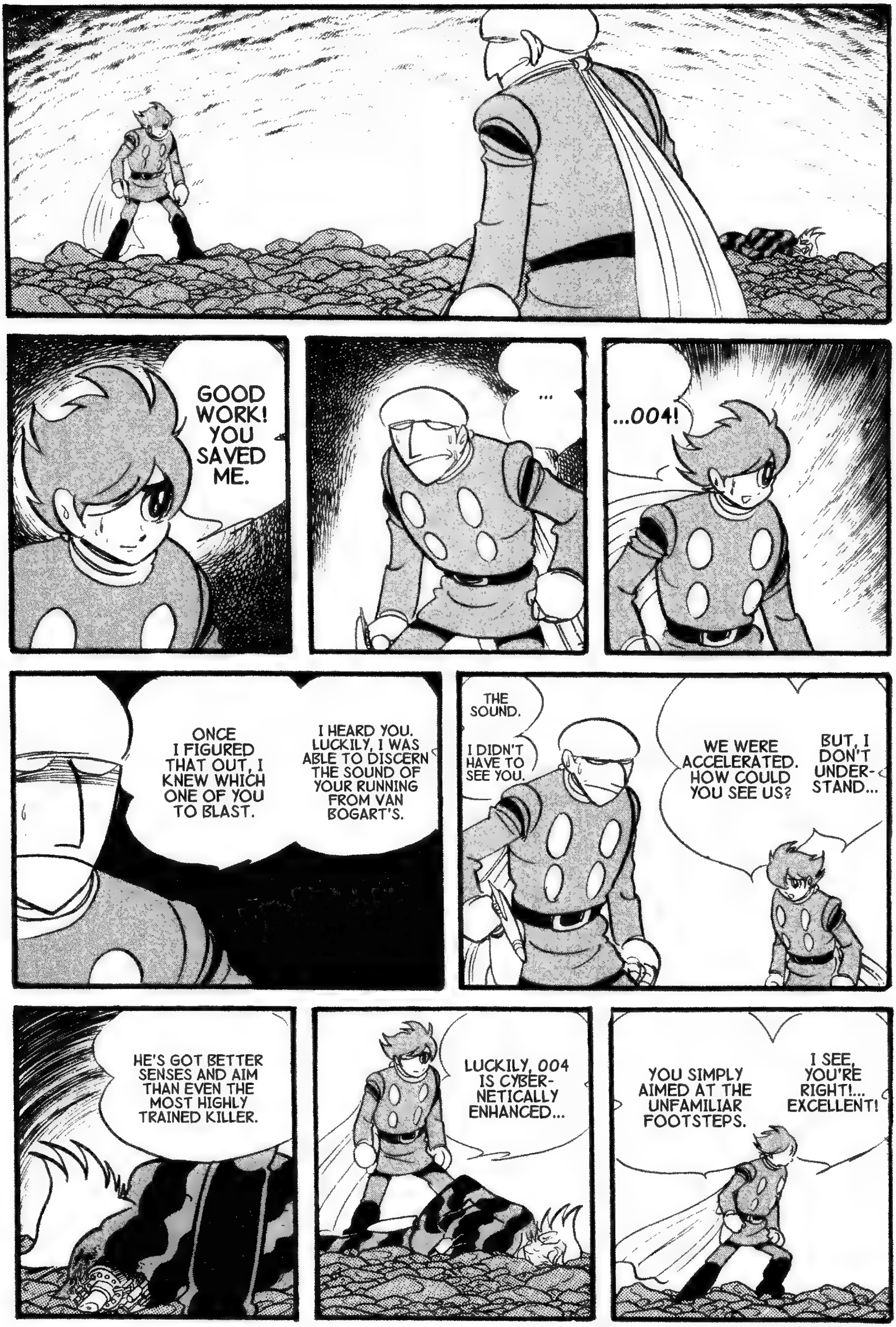

カッ
FLASH
BZZZT

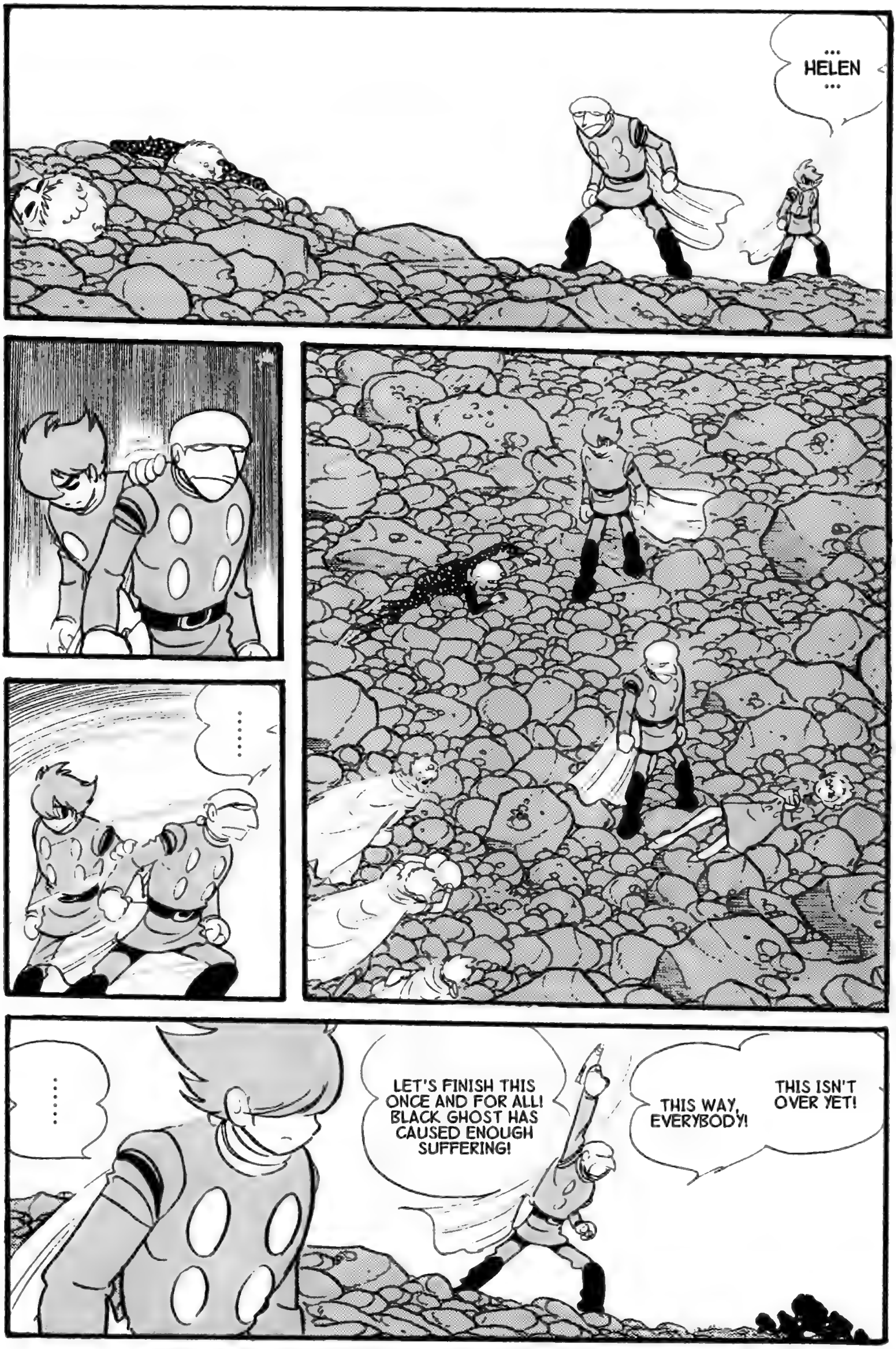

BZZZT
FWISH
BZZZT
FWISH
BZZZT
FWOOOSH
...
MAYBE IF I CLOSE MY EYES...
I SHOULD STAY OUT OF THE WAY!
GR... RRRR.
FWOOOOOSH
FWOOOOOSH
FWOOOOOSH

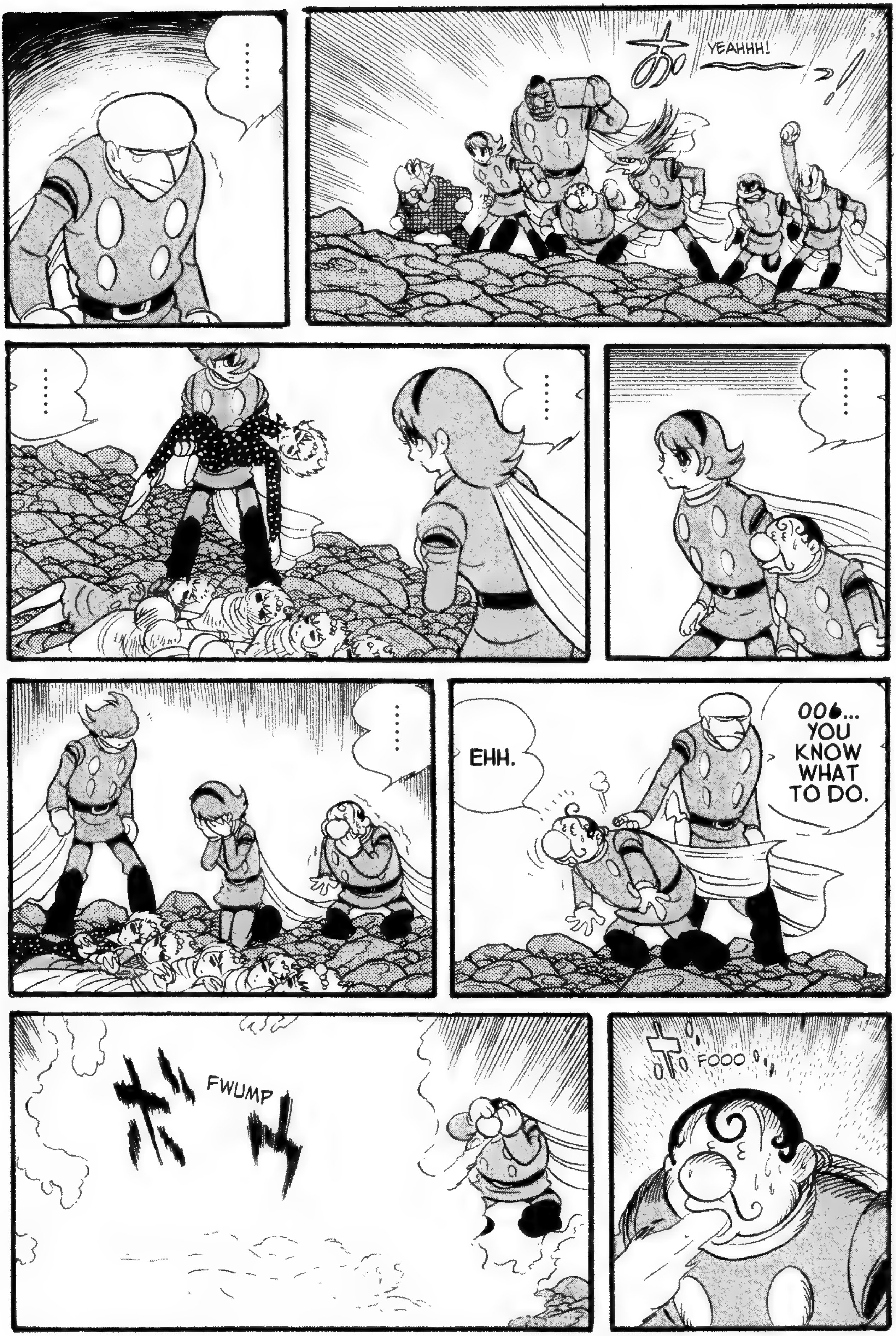


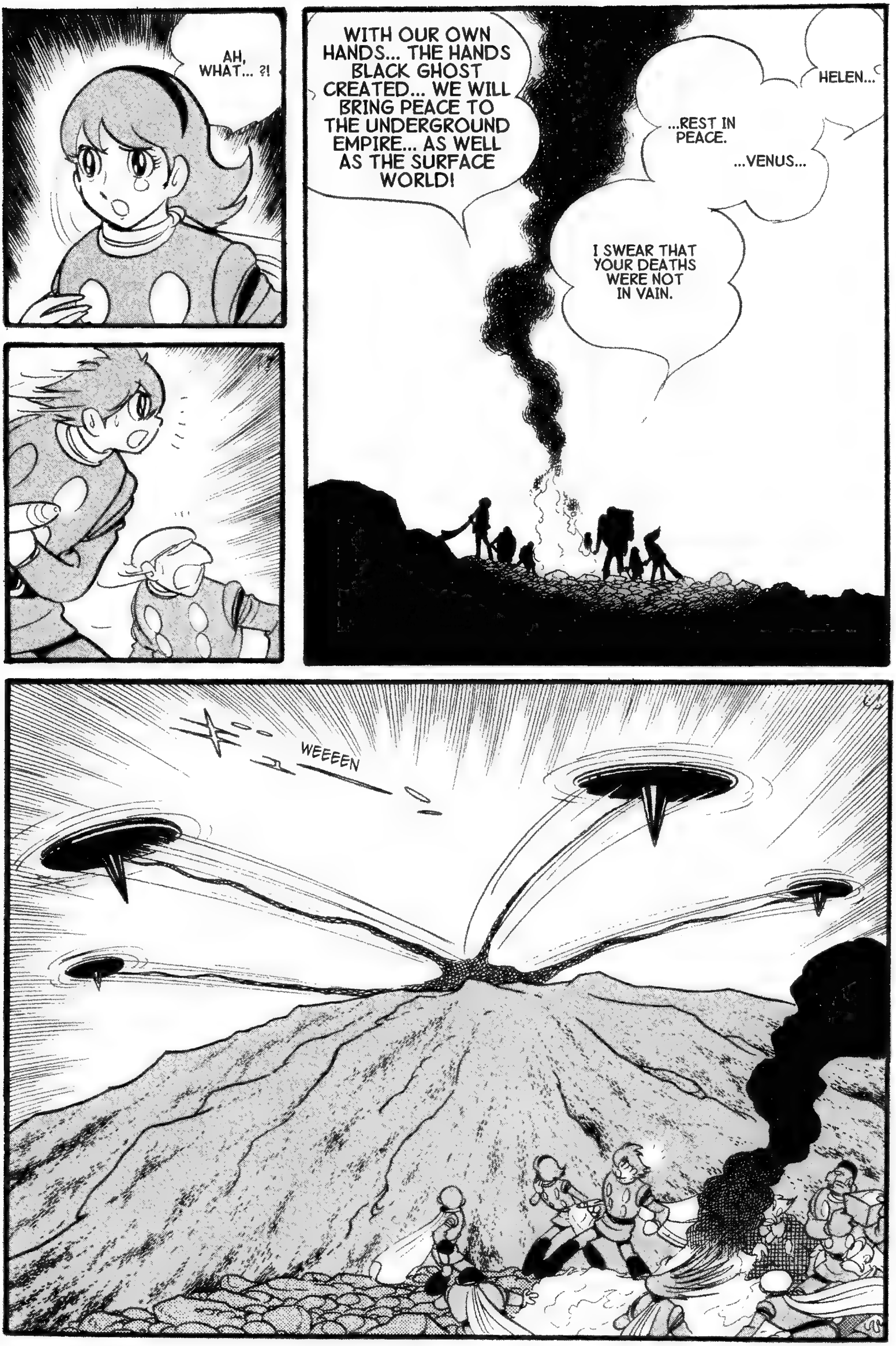

Z-ZAP

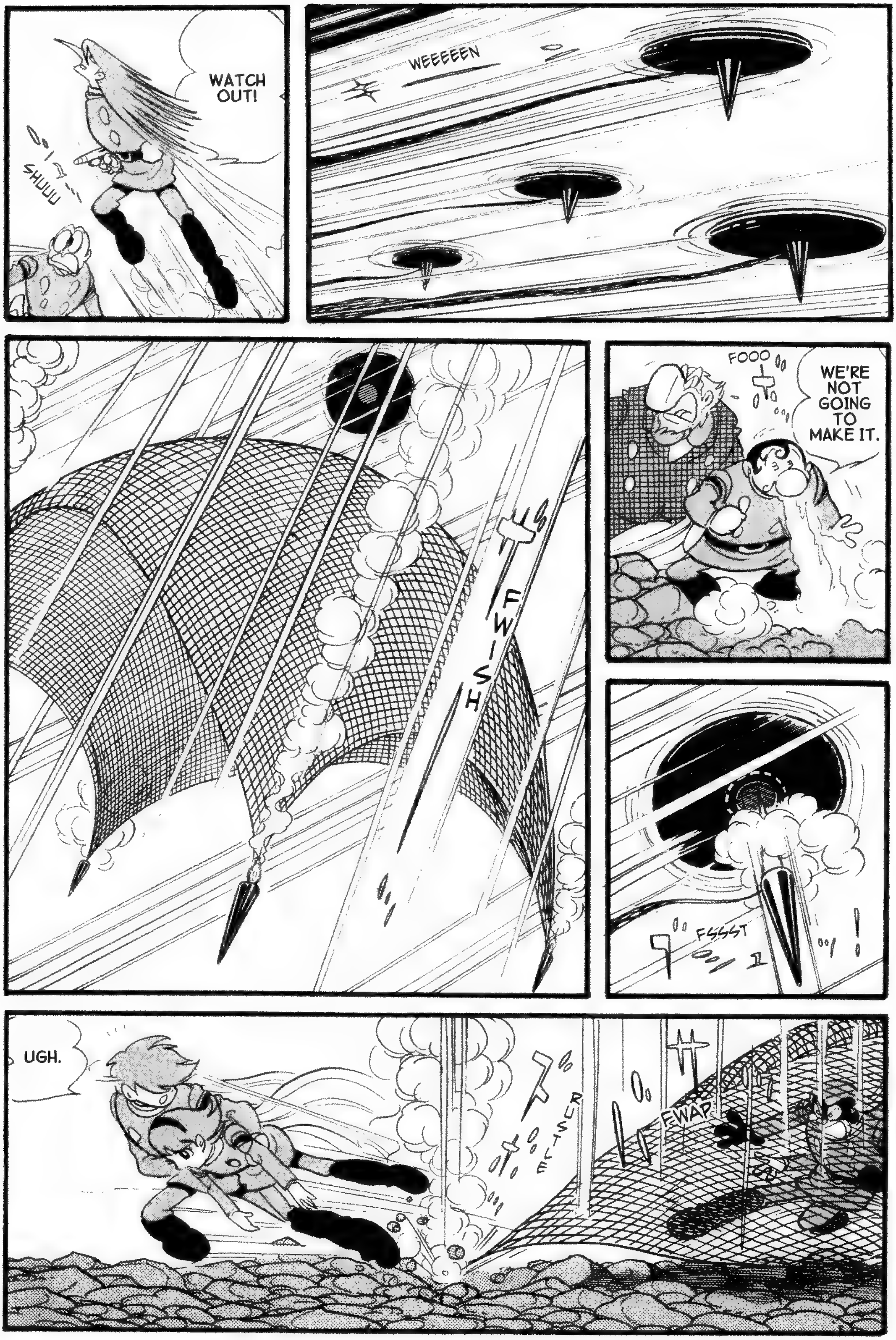


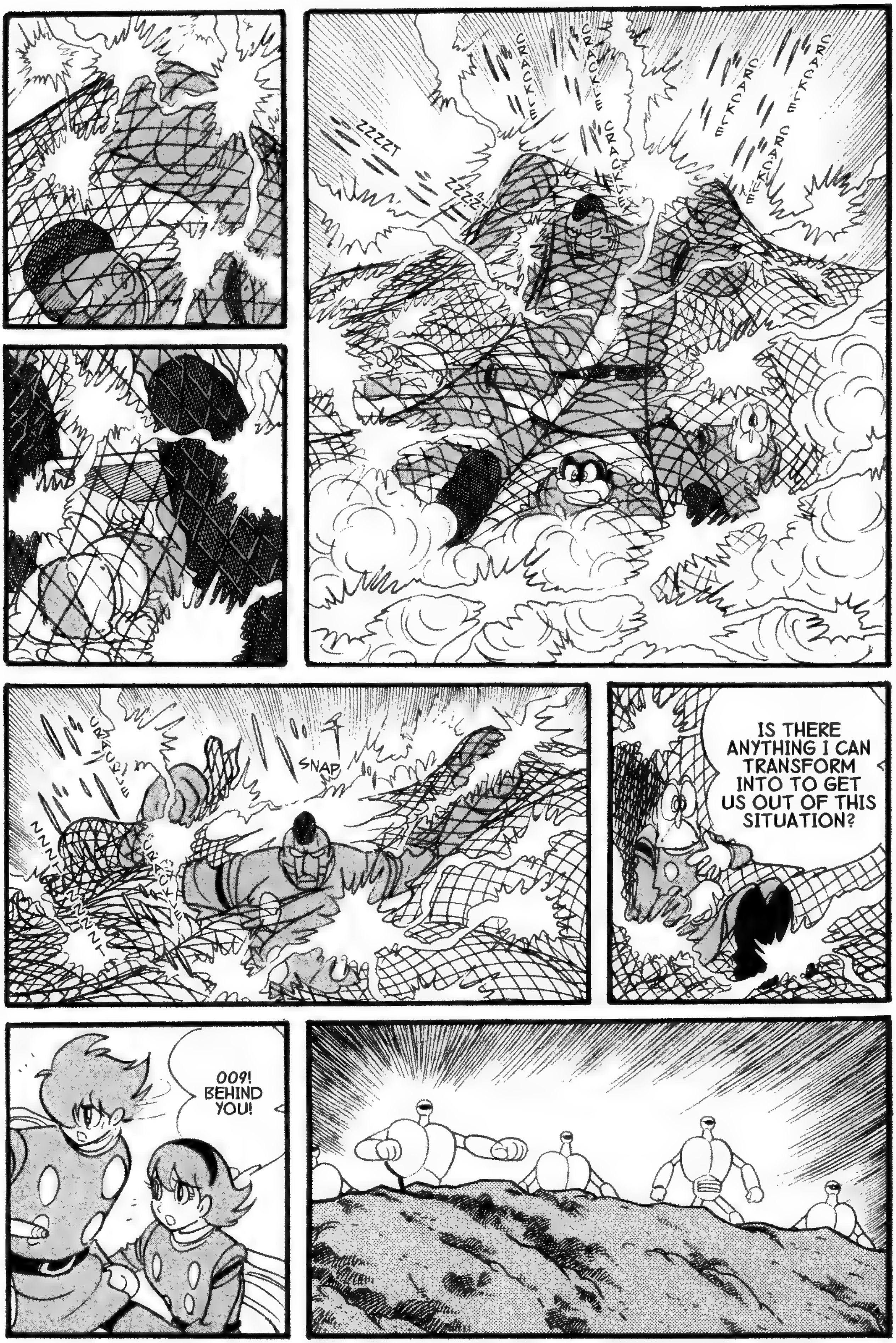

...004!
...
GOOD WORK! YOU SAVED ME.
BUT, I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WE WERE ACCELERATED. HOW COULD YOU SEE US?
THE SOUND.
I DIDN'T HAVE TO SEE YOU.
I HEARD YOU. LUCKILY, I WAS ABLE TO DISCERN THE SOUND OF YOUR RUNNING FROM VAN BOGART'S.
ONCE I FIGURED THAT OUT, I KNEW WHICH ONE OF YOU TO BLAST.
I SEE, YOU'RE RIGHT!... EXCELLENT!
YOU SIMPLY AIMED AT THE UNFAMILIAR FOOTSTEPS.
LUCKILY, 004 IS CYBERNETICALLY ENHANCED...
HE'S GOT BETTER SENSES AND AIM THAN EVEN THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED KILLER.

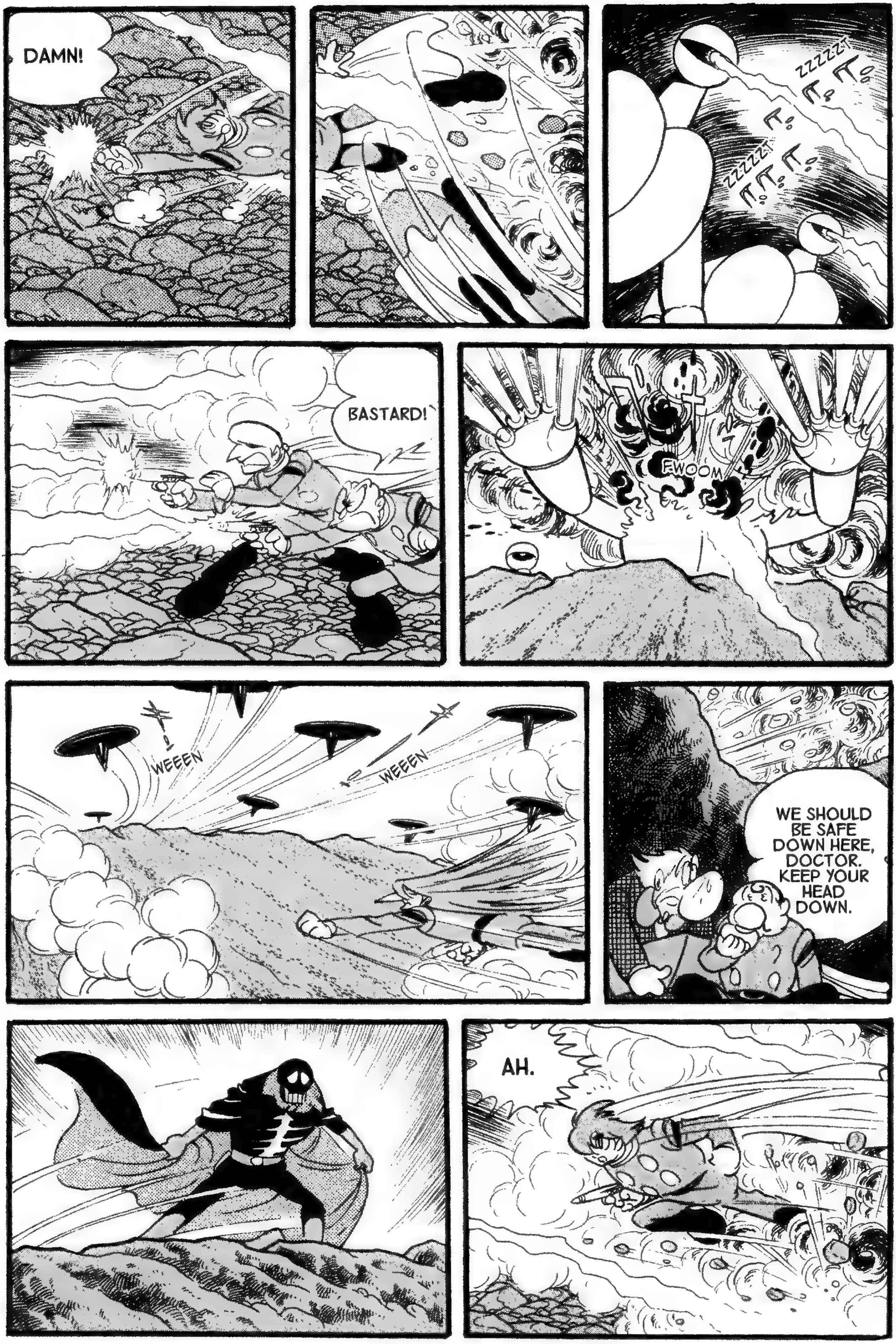

... HELEN ...
......
......
LET'S FINISH THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL! BLACK GHOST HAS CAUSED ENOUGH SUFFERING!
THIS ISN'T OVER YET! THIS WAY, EVERYBODY!

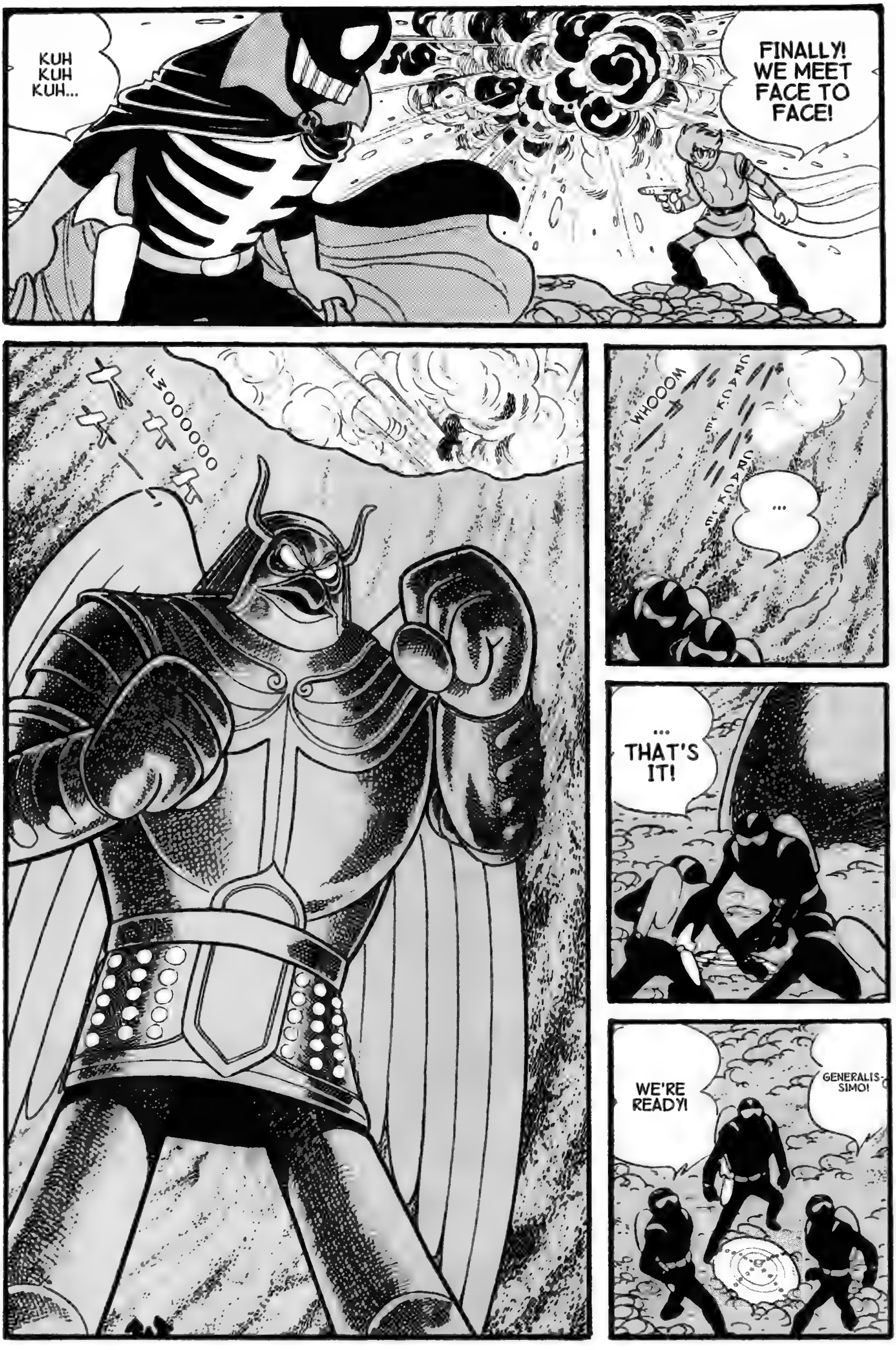

……
YEAHHH!
……
……
……
……
006... YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
EHH.
FWUMP
FOOO

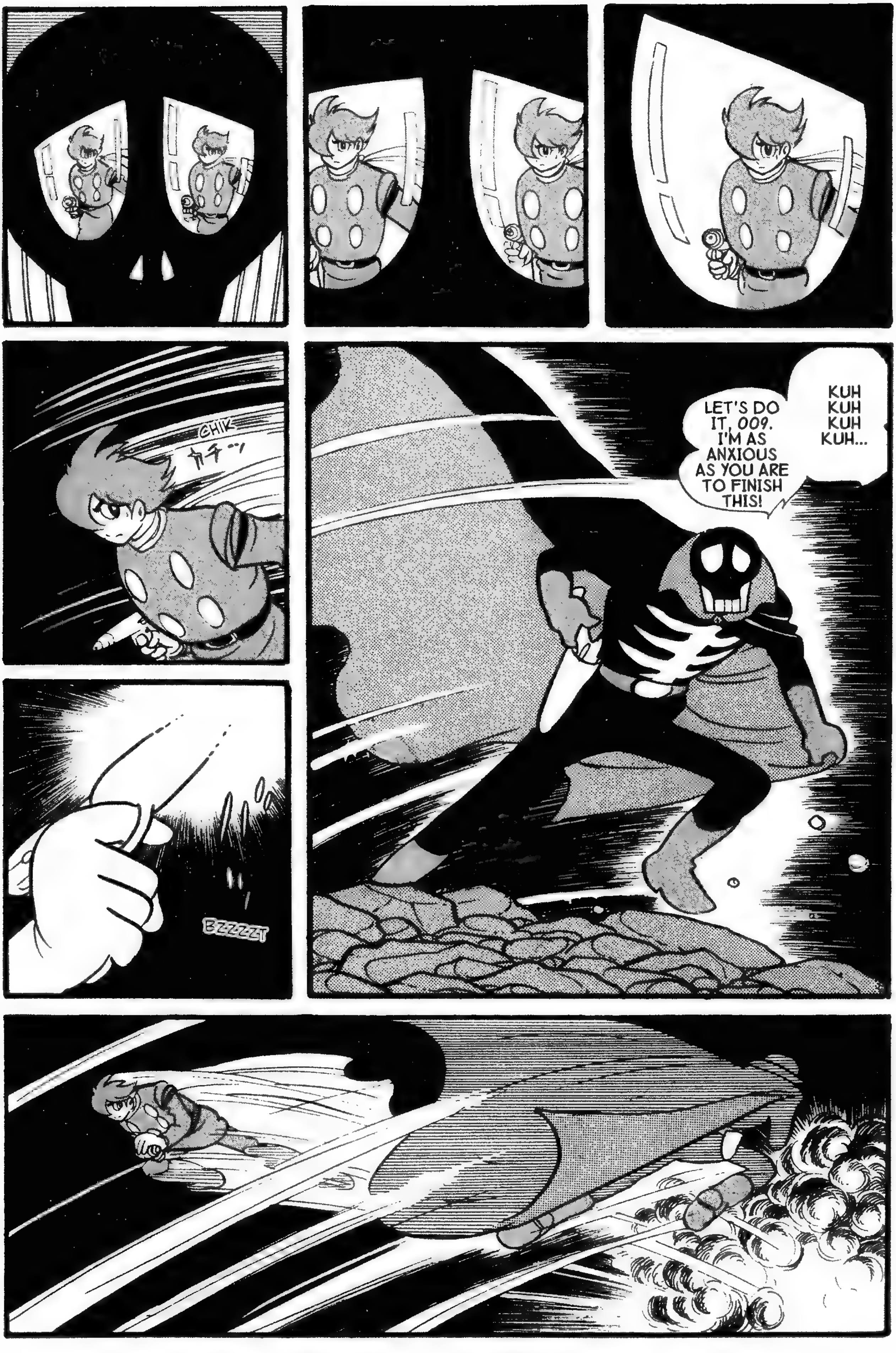

AH, WHAT... ?!
WITH OUR OWN HANDS... THE HANDS BLACK GHOST CREATED... WE WILL BRING PEACE TO THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE... AS WELL AS THE SURFACE WORLD!
HELEN...
...VENUS...
...REST IN PEACE.
I SWEAR THAT YOUR DEATHS WERE NOT IN VAIN.
WEEEEN

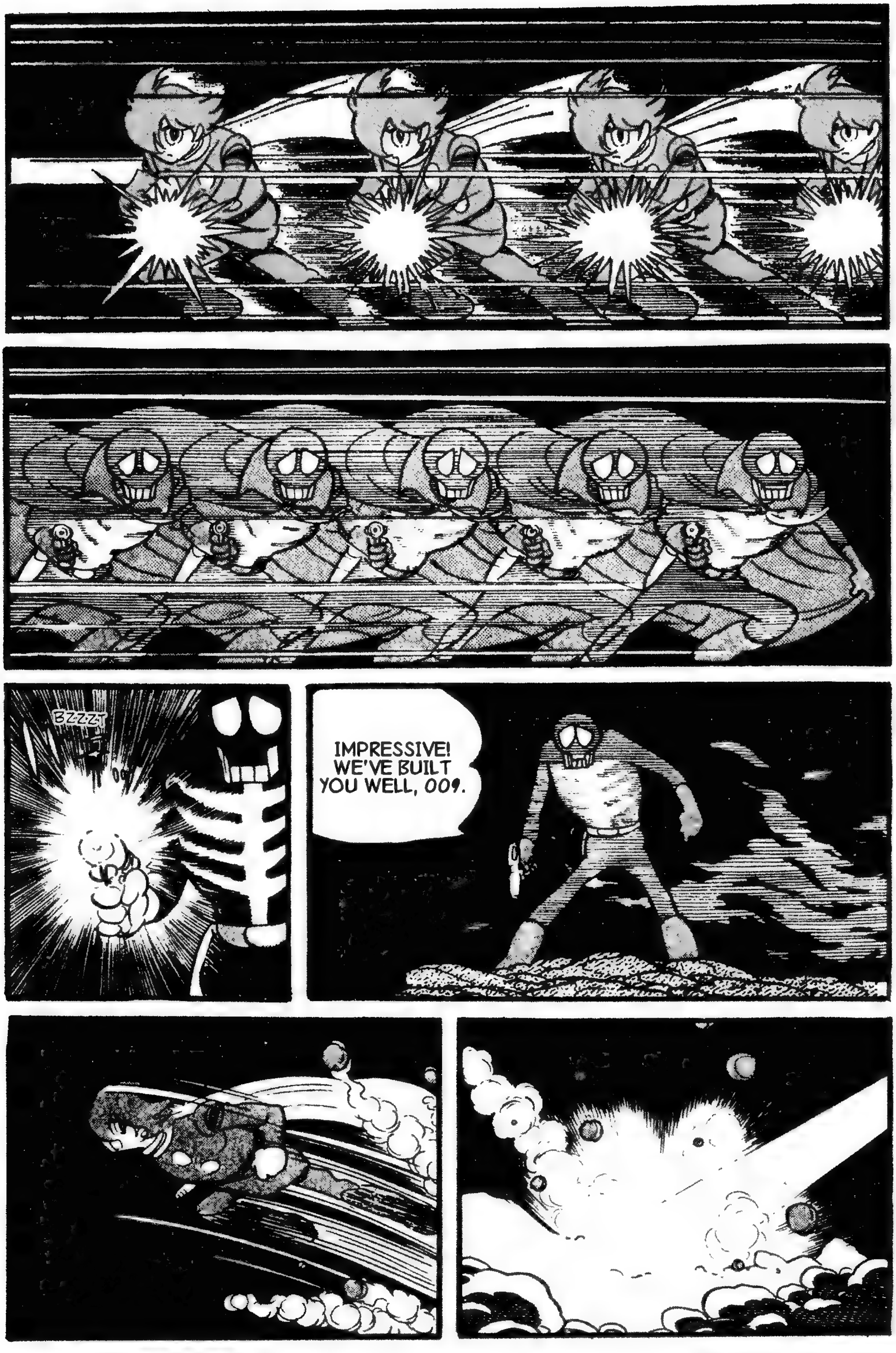

WATCH OUT!
SHUUU
WEEEEEN
FWISH
FOOO
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT.
FSSST
UGH.
RUSTLE
FWAP

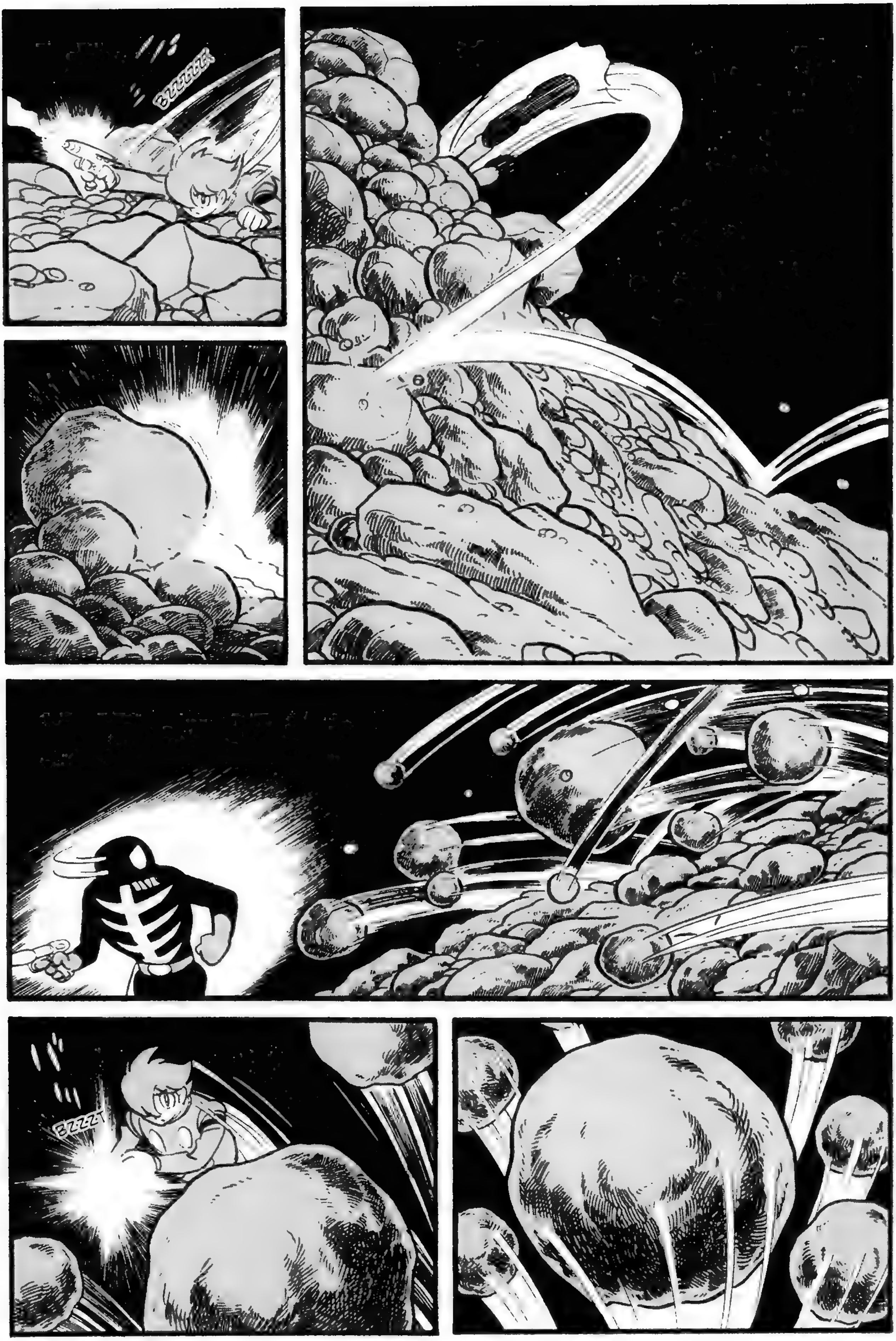

ZZZZZT
ZZZZZT
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
SNAP
NNNT
NNNNT
CRACKLE
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN TRANSFORM INTO TO GET US OUT OF THIS SITUATION?
009! BEHIND YOU!

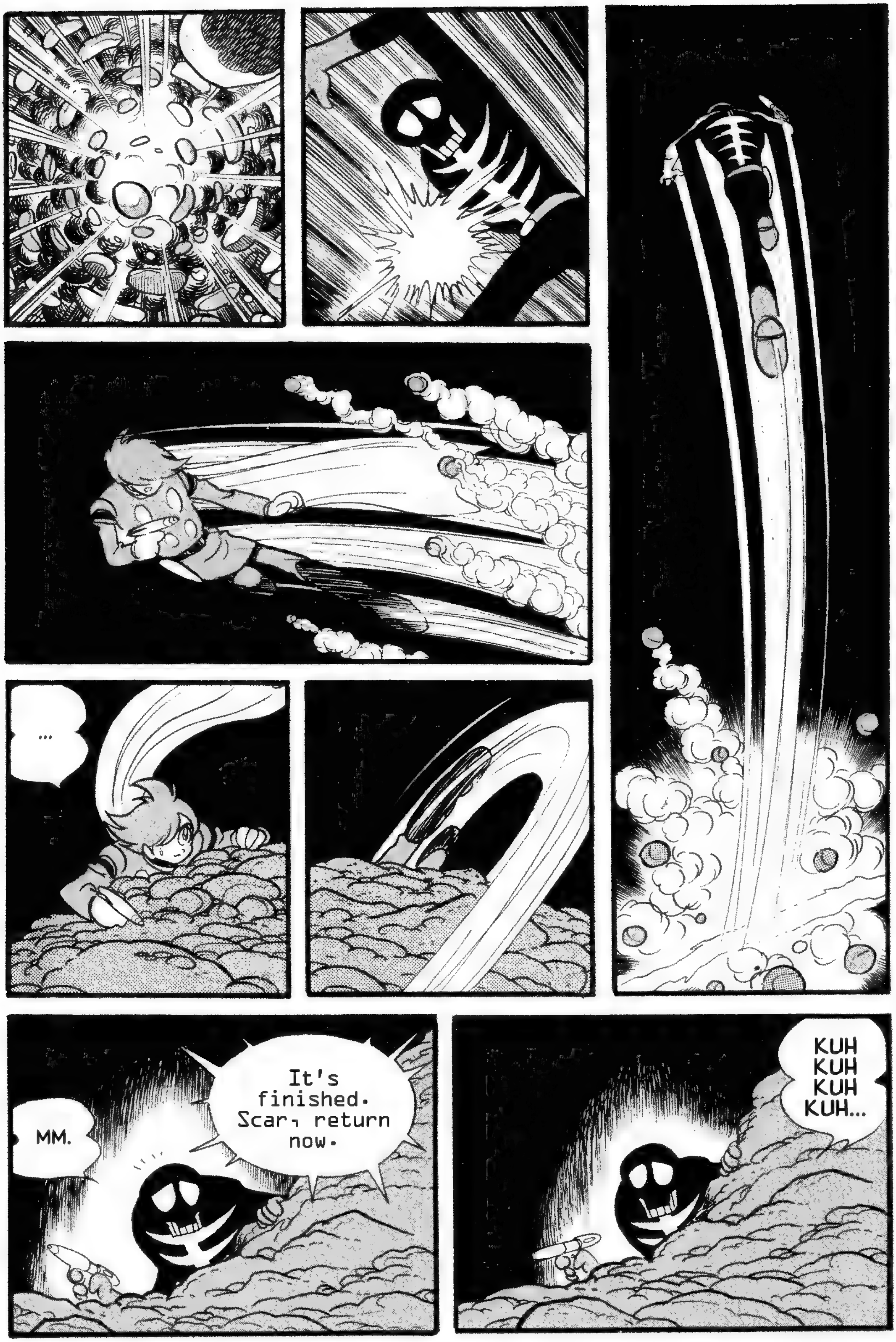

DAMN!
ZZZZZT
ZZZZZT
BASTARD!
FWOOM
WEEEN
WEEEN
WE SHOULD BE SAFE DOWN HERE, DOCTOR. KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.
AH.

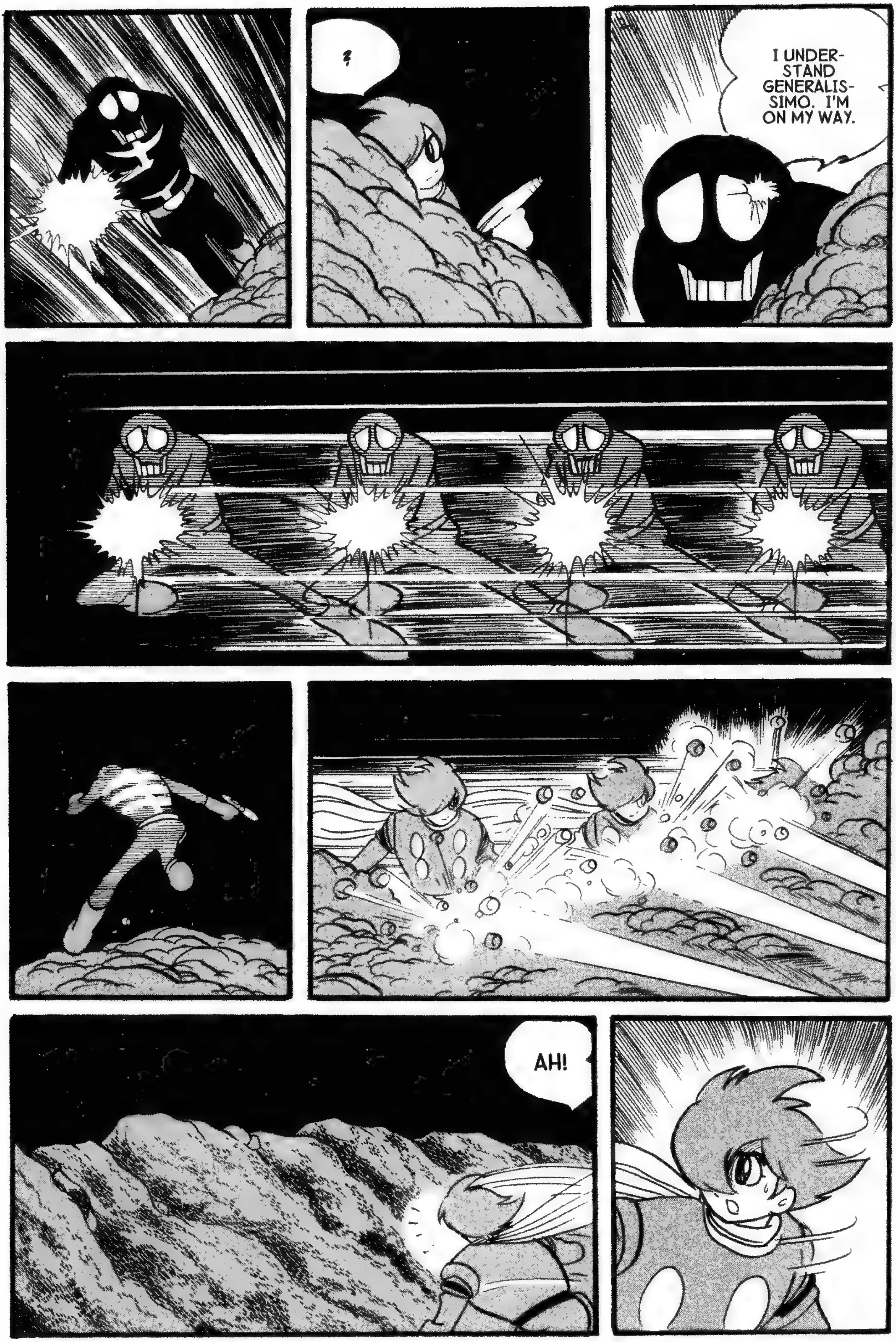

FINALLY! WE MEET FACE TO FACE!
KUH KUH KUH...
WHOOOM
CRACK CRACK
...
... THAT'S IT!
GENERALISSIMO!
WE'RE READY!
ZOOOOOOO

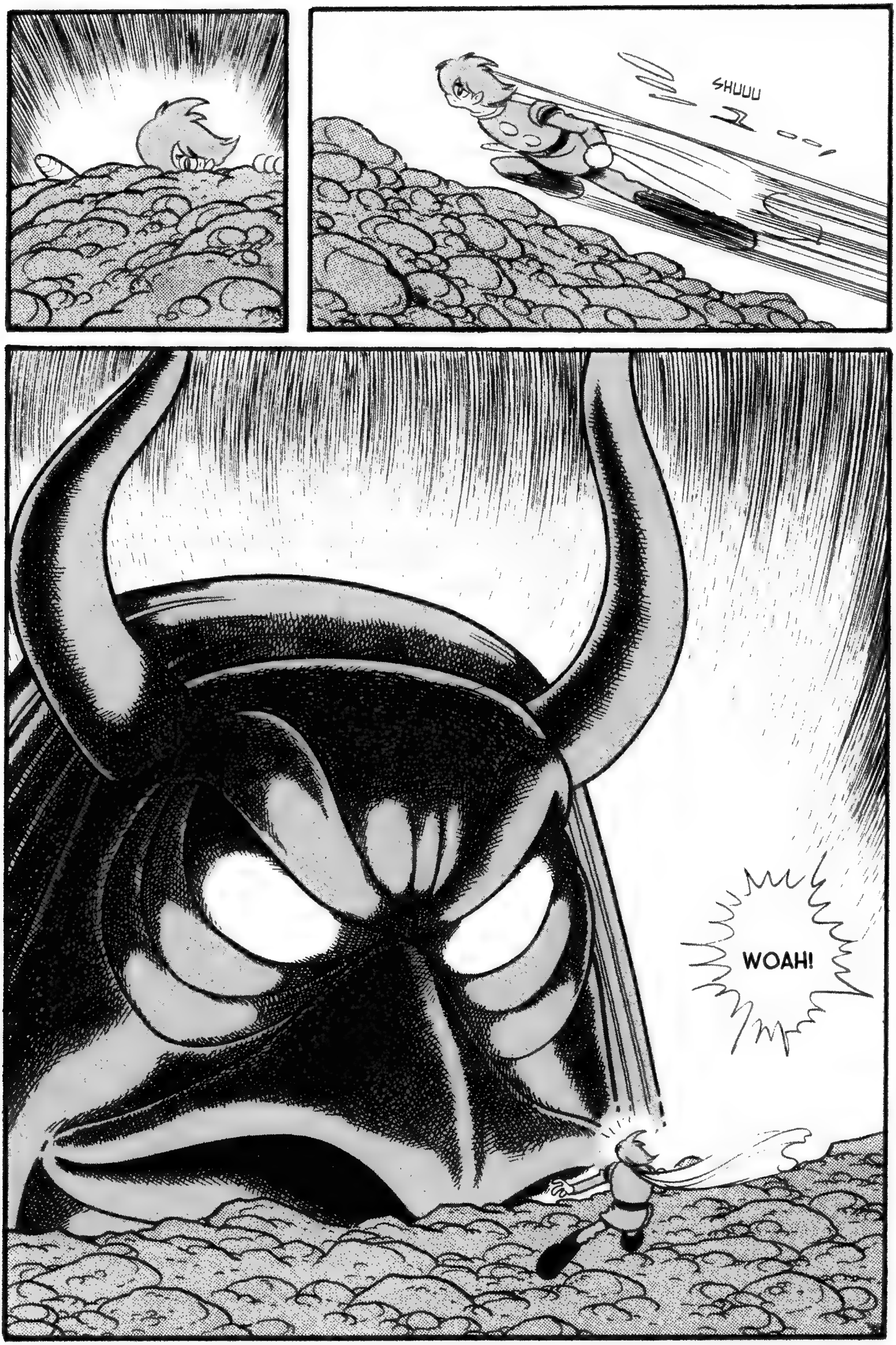

CHIK
カチッ
BZZZZT
KUH KUH KUH KUH...
LET'S DO IT, 009. I'M AS ANXIOUS AS YOU ARE TO FINISH THIS!

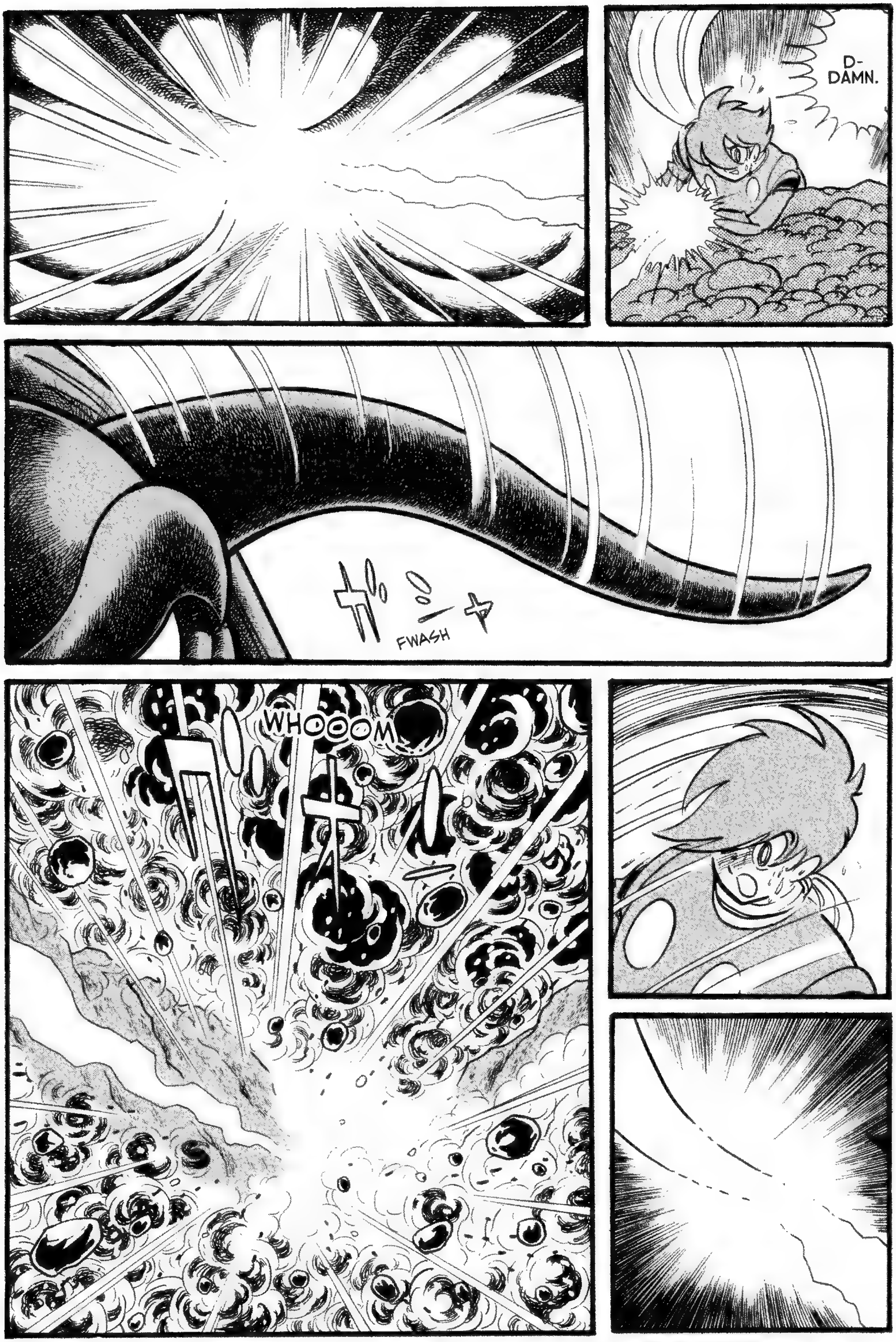

BZZZT
IMPRESSIVE! WE'VE BUILT YOU WELL, 009.

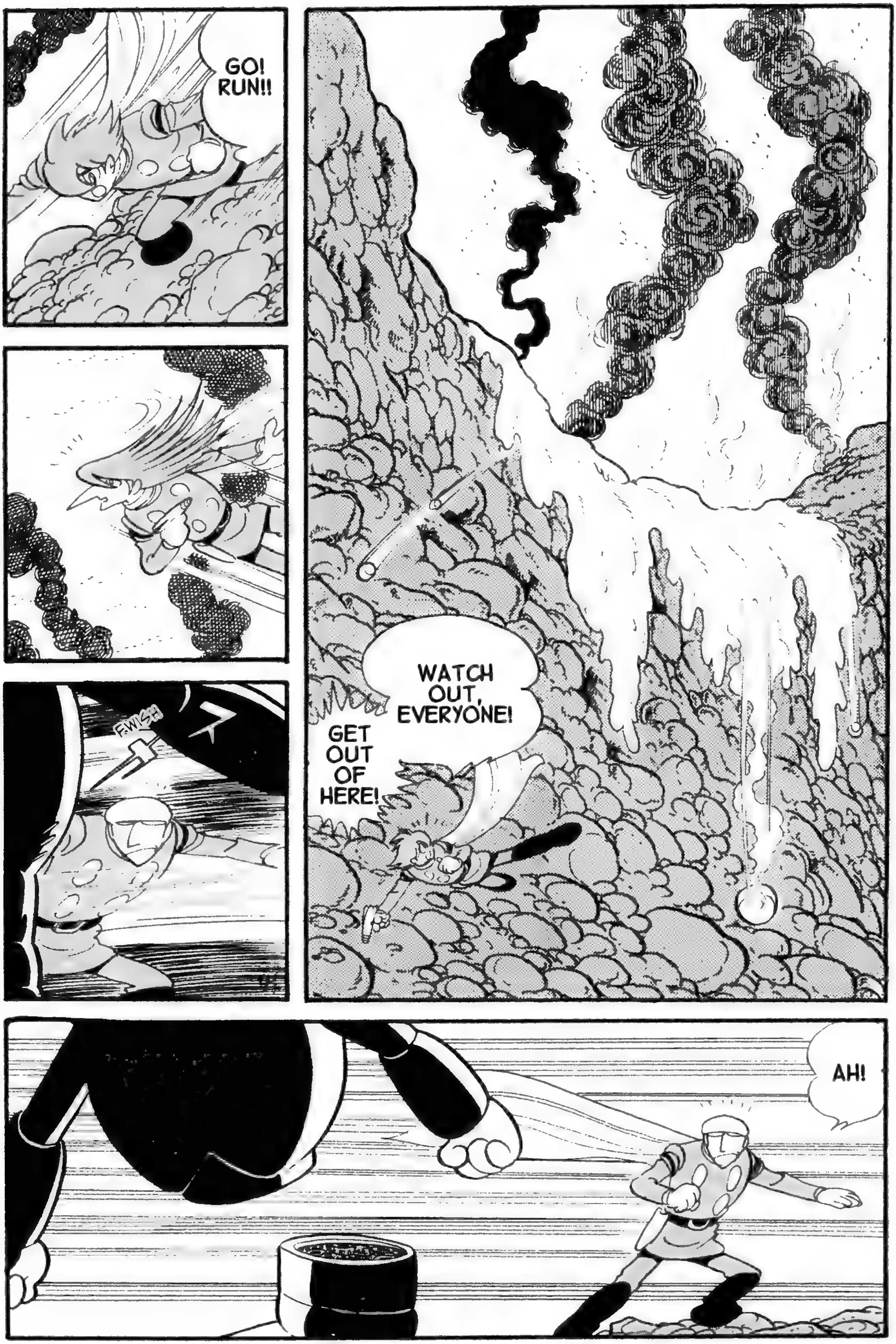

BZZZZZT
BZZZT

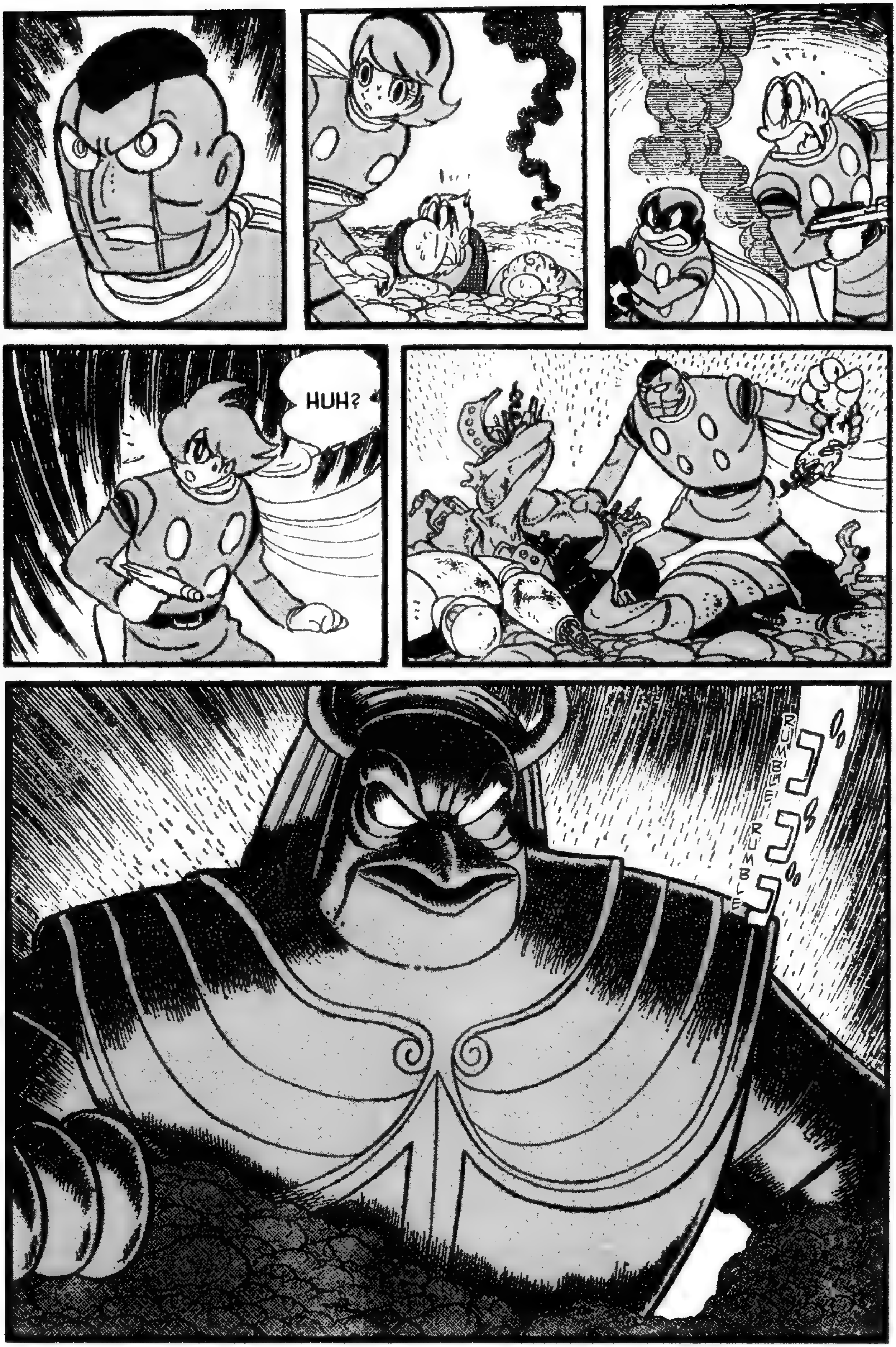

...
It's finished. Scar, return now.
MM.
KUH KUH KUH KUH...

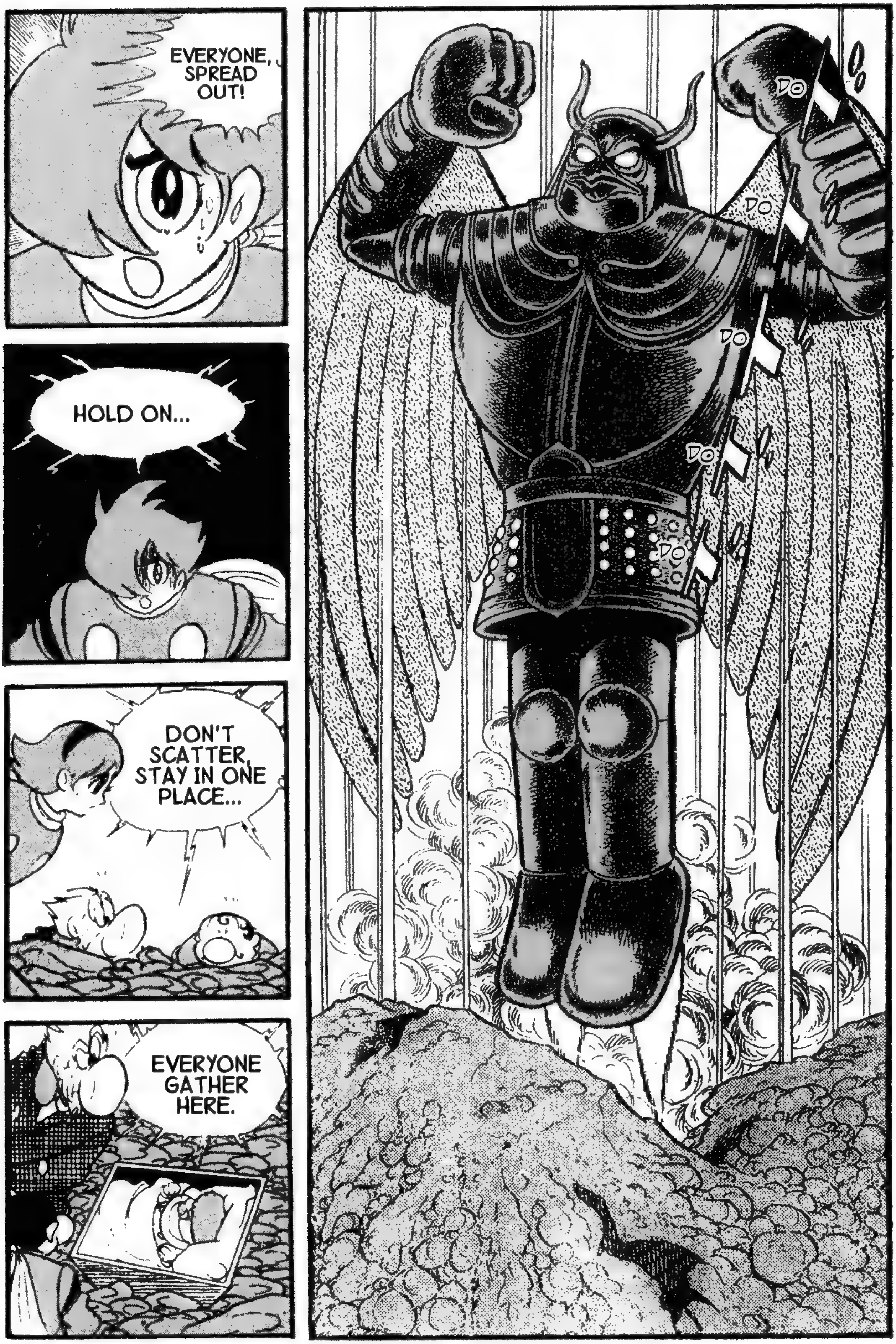

?
I UNDERSTAND GENERALISSIMO. I'M ON MY WAY.
AH!

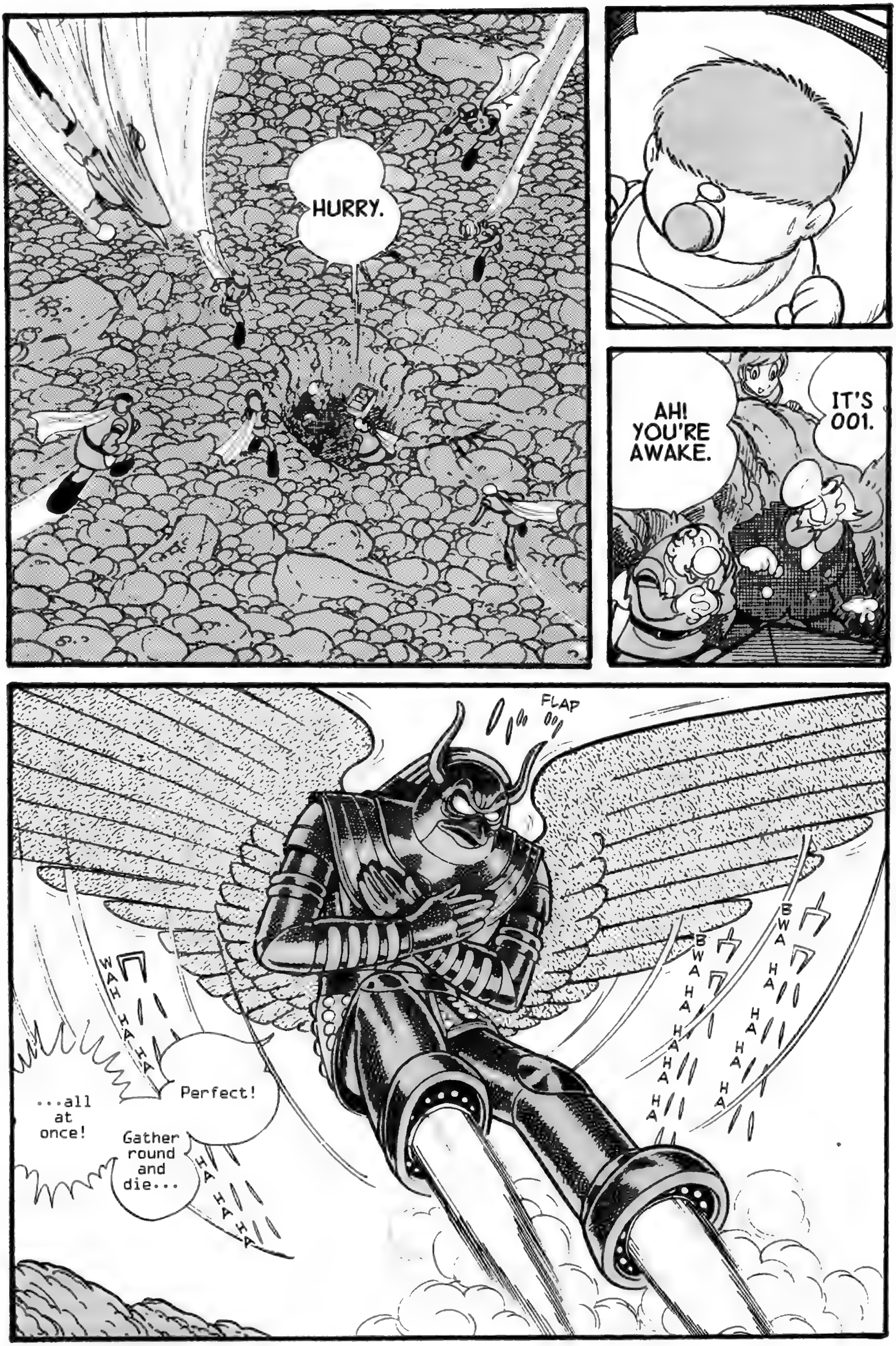

SHUUU
WOAH!

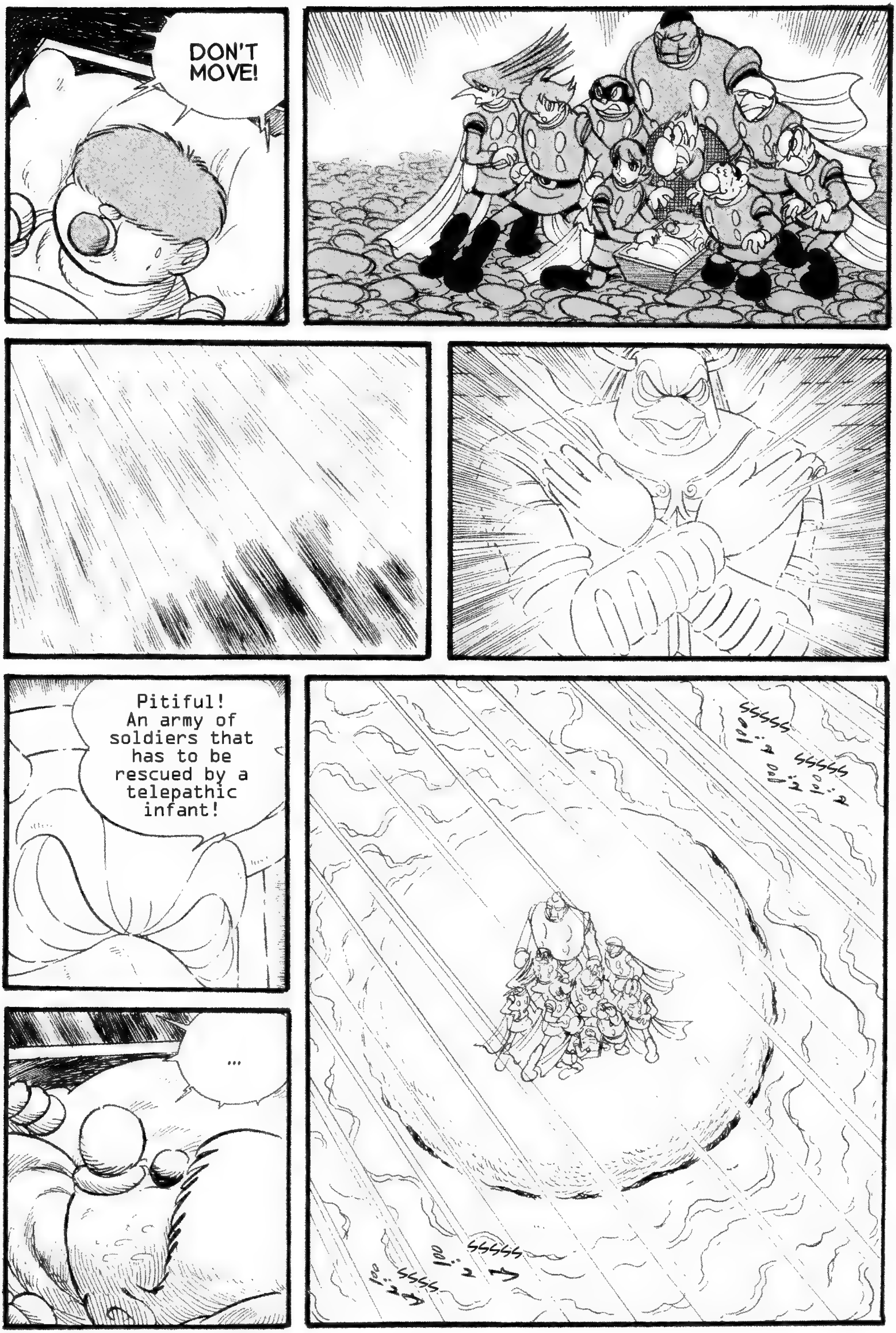

D-
DAMN.
FWASH
WHOOOM

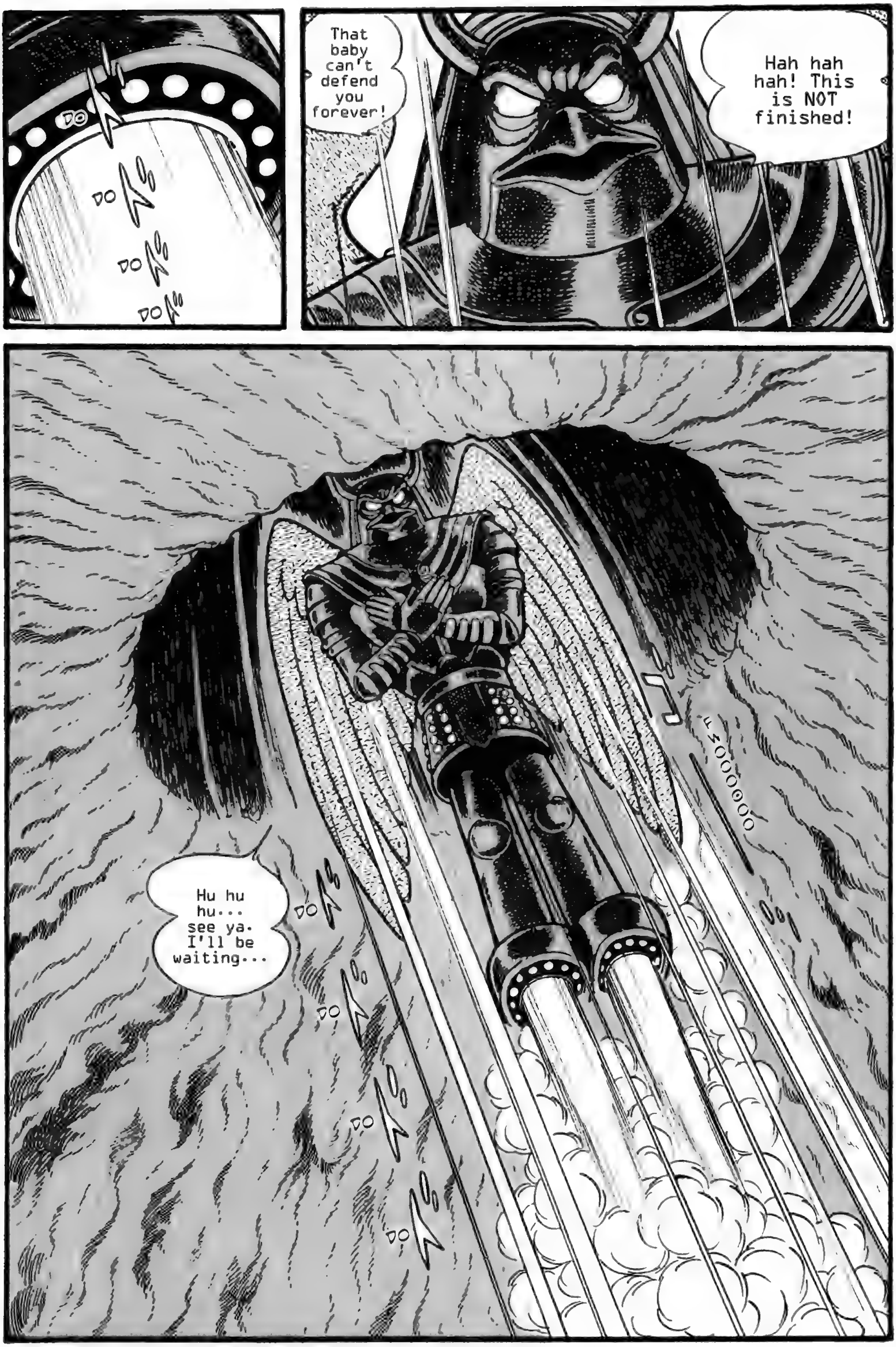

GO! RUN!!
FWISH
WATCH OUT, EVERYONE!
GET OUT OF HERE!
AH!

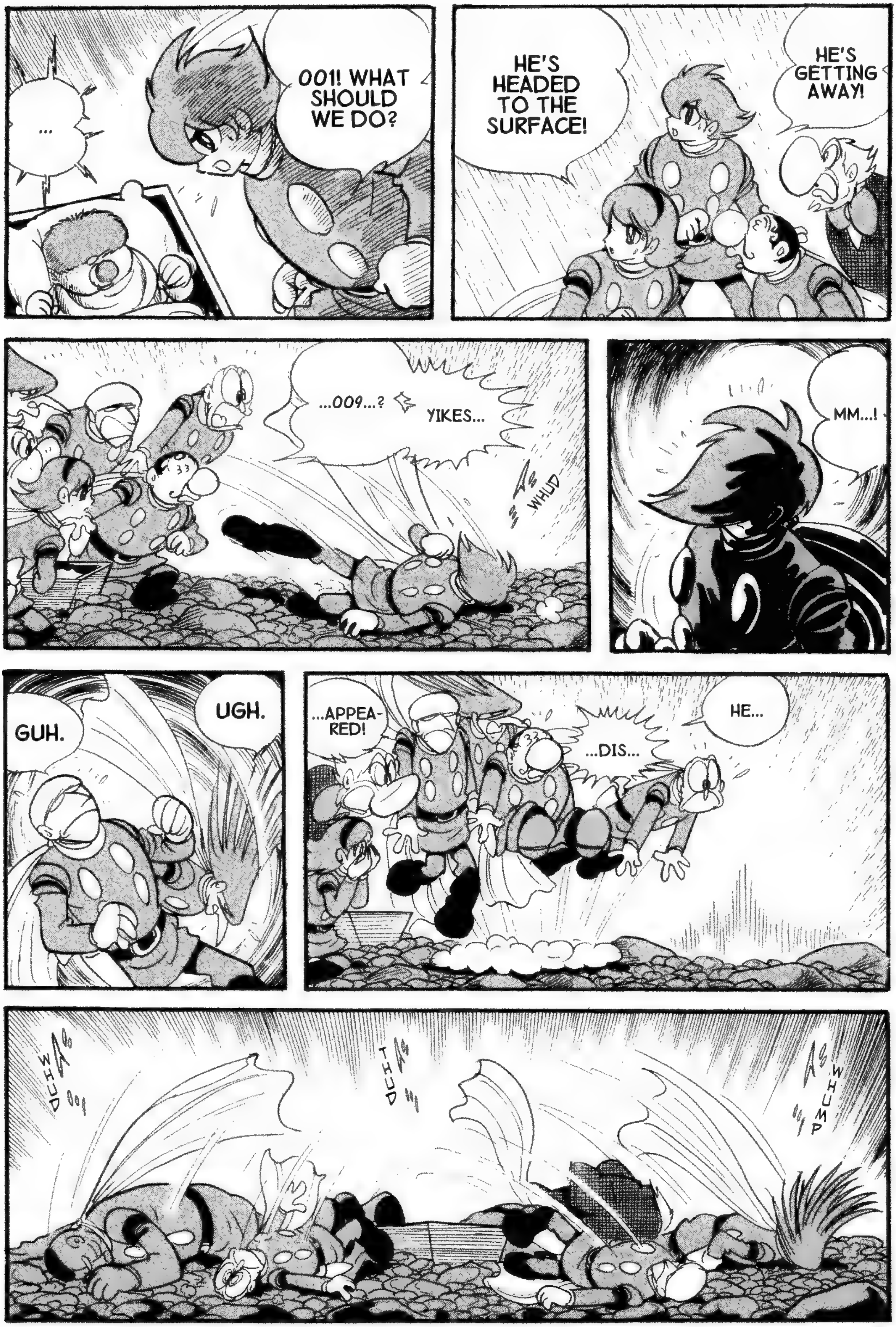

HUH?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE


EVERYONE, SPREAD OUT!
HOLD ON...
DON'T SCATTER, STAY IN ONE PLACE...
EVERYONE GATHER HERE.
DO
DO
DO
DO
DO


HURRY.
AH! YOU'RE AWAKE.
IT'S 001.
FLAP
WAH HA HA HA
Perfect!
Gather round and die...
...all at once!
HA HA HA HA
BWA HA HA HA HA HA
BWA HA HA HA HA HA

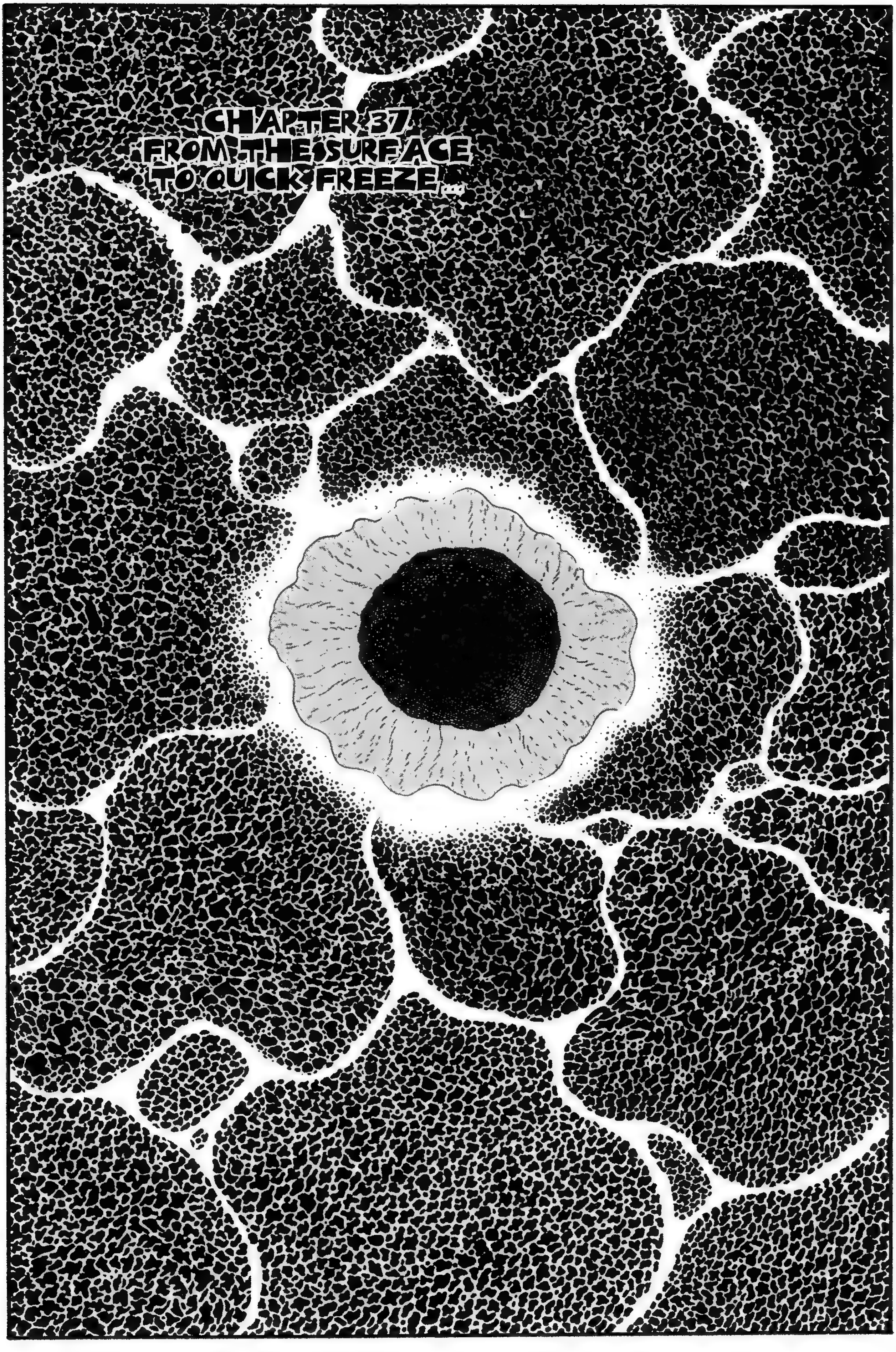

DON'T MOVE!
Pitiful! An army of soldiers that has to be rescued by a telepathic infant!
...
SSSSS
SSSSS
SSSSS
SSSS

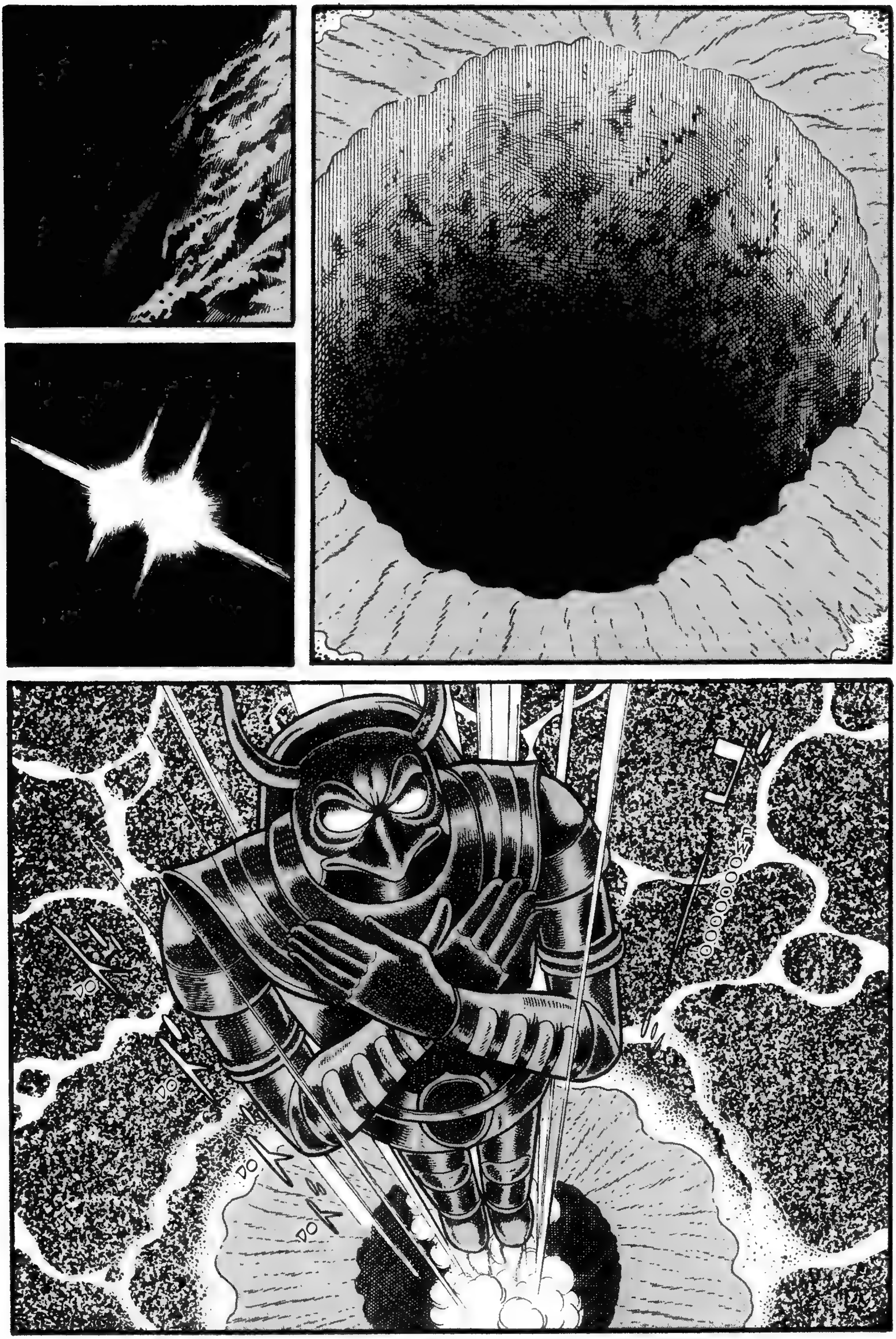

DO
DO
DO
DO
That baby can't defend you forever!
Hah hah hah! This is NOT finished!
FWOOOOOO
Hu hu hu... see ya. I'll be waiting...
DO
DO
DO
DO

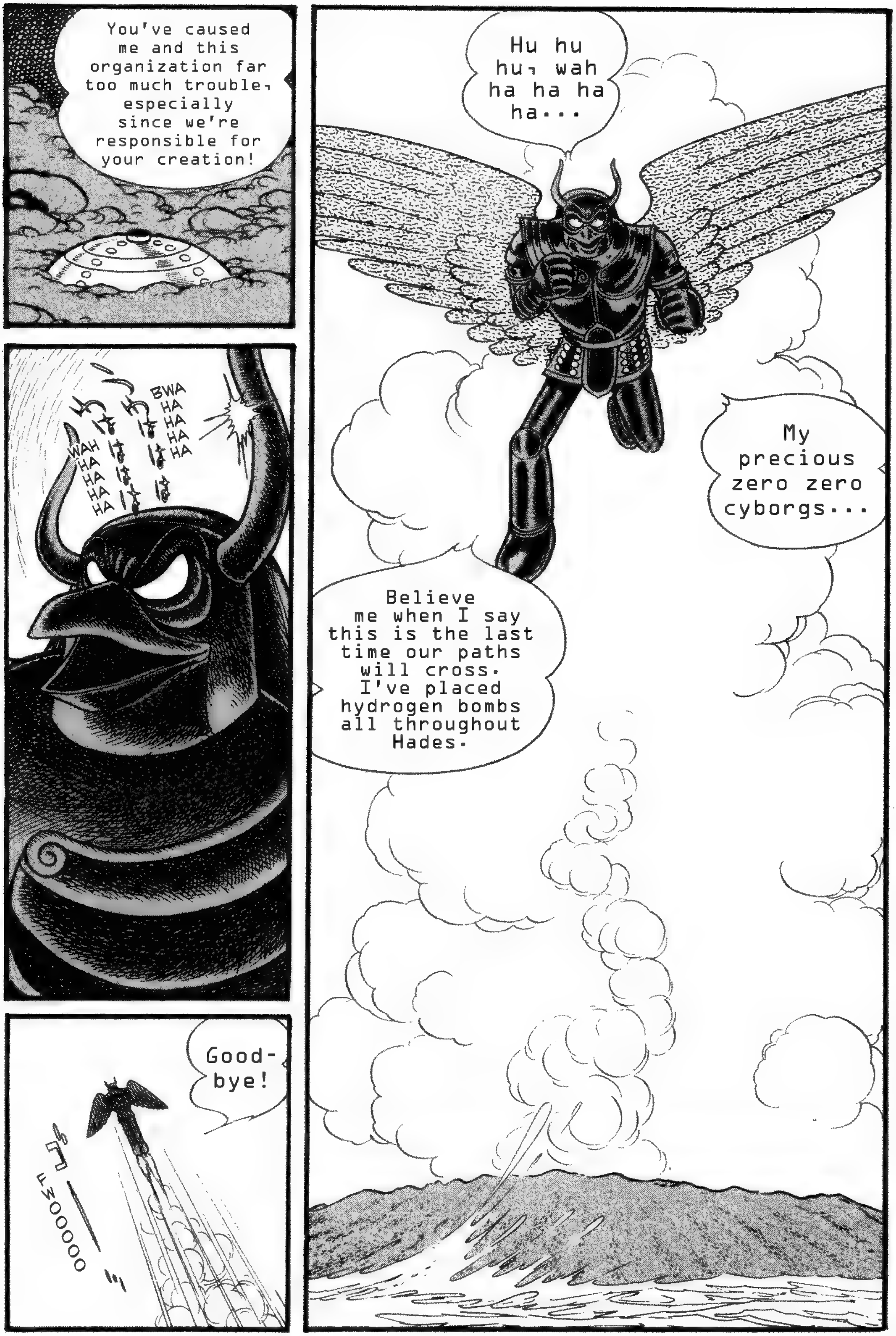

HE'S GETTING AWAY!
HE'S HEADED TO THE SURFACE!
001! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
...
MM...!
WHUD
...009...? YIKES...
HE...
...DIS...
...APPEA-RED!
UGH.
GUH.
WHUMP
THUD
WHUD

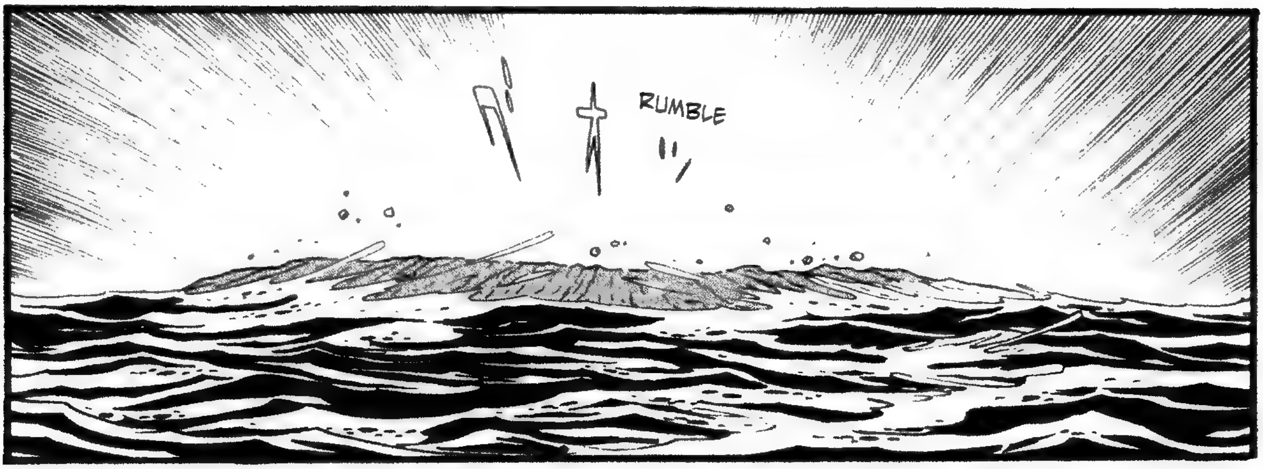
CHAPTER 37

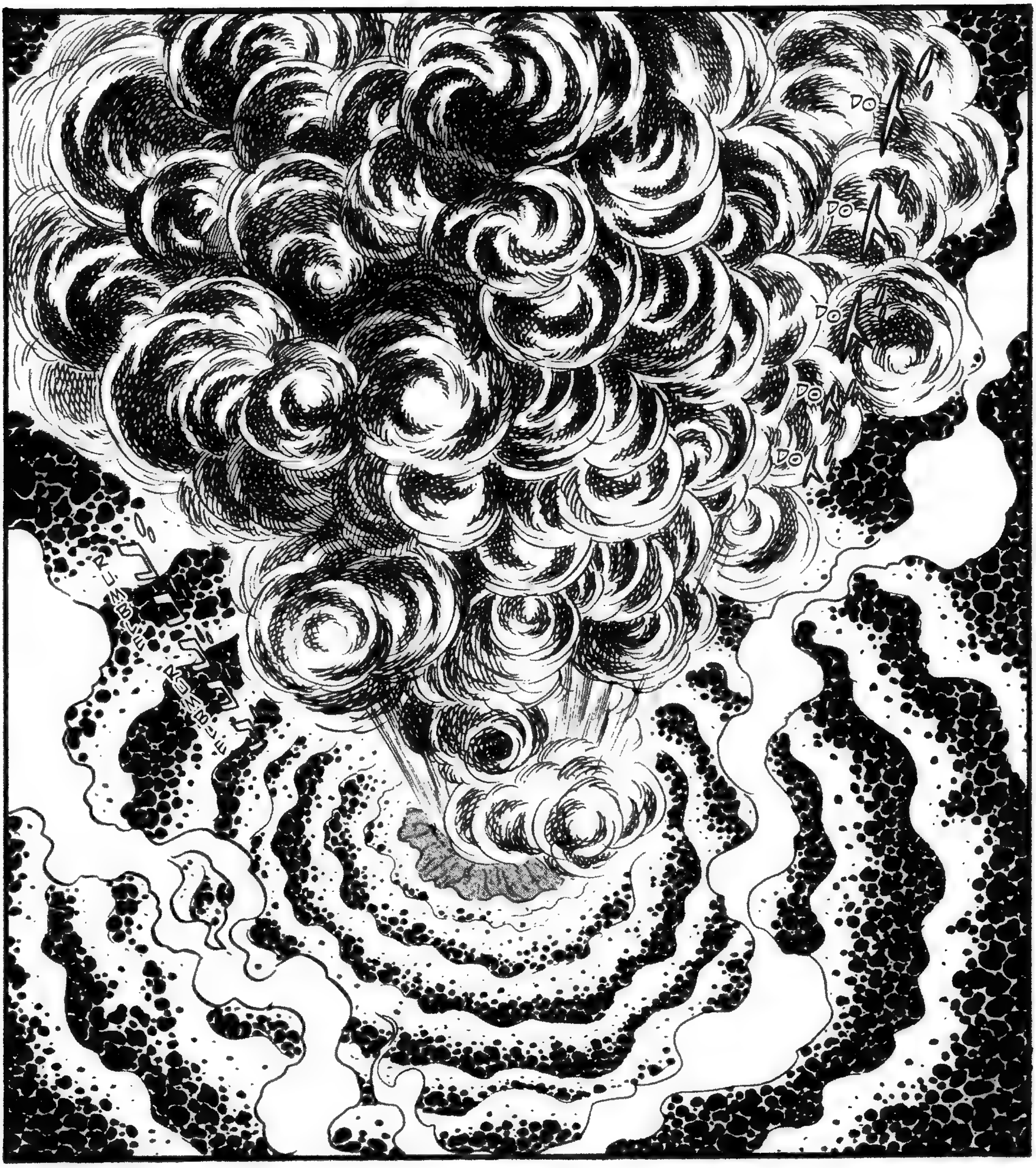
FROM THE SURFACE TO QUICK FREEZE...

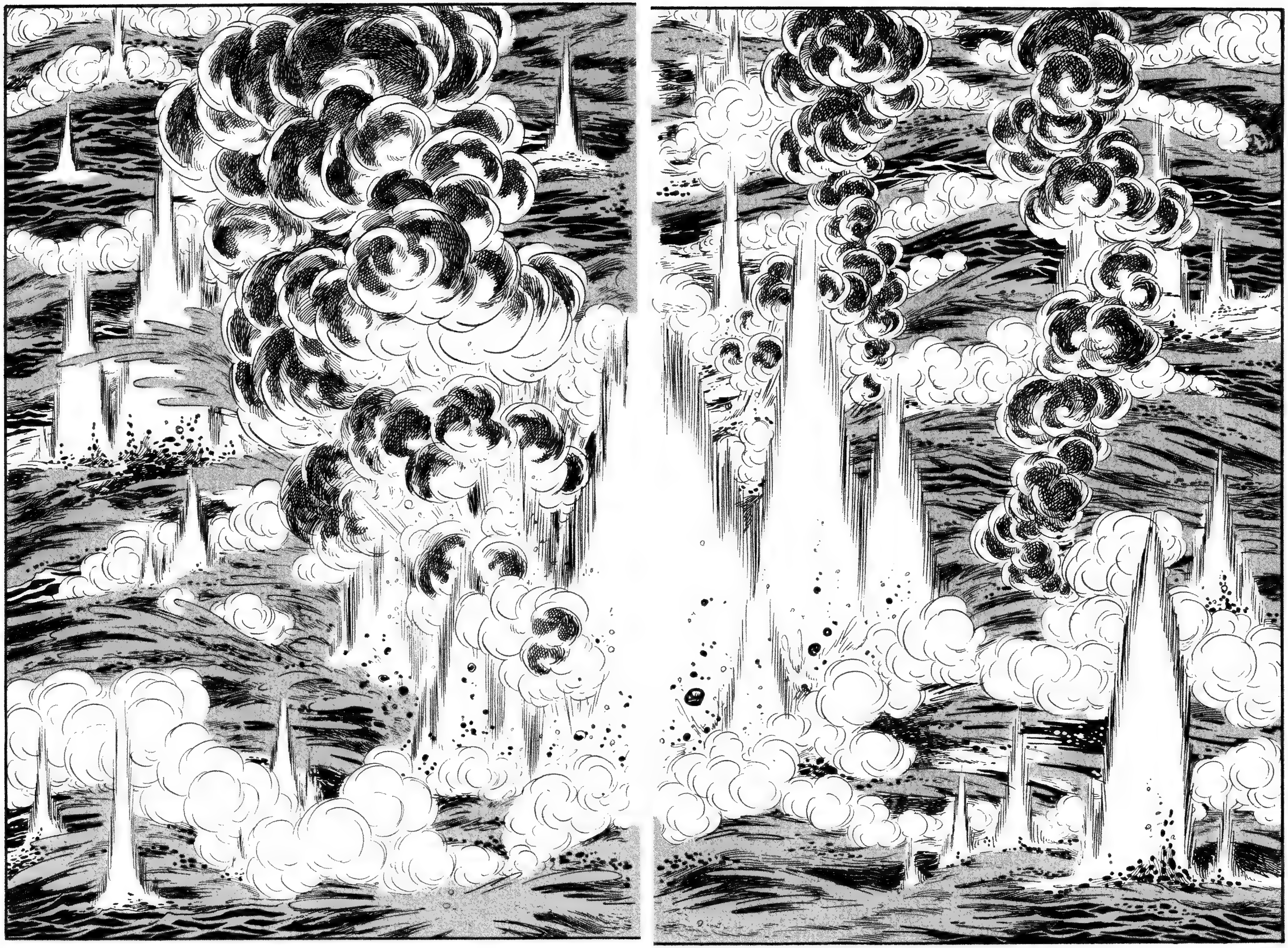


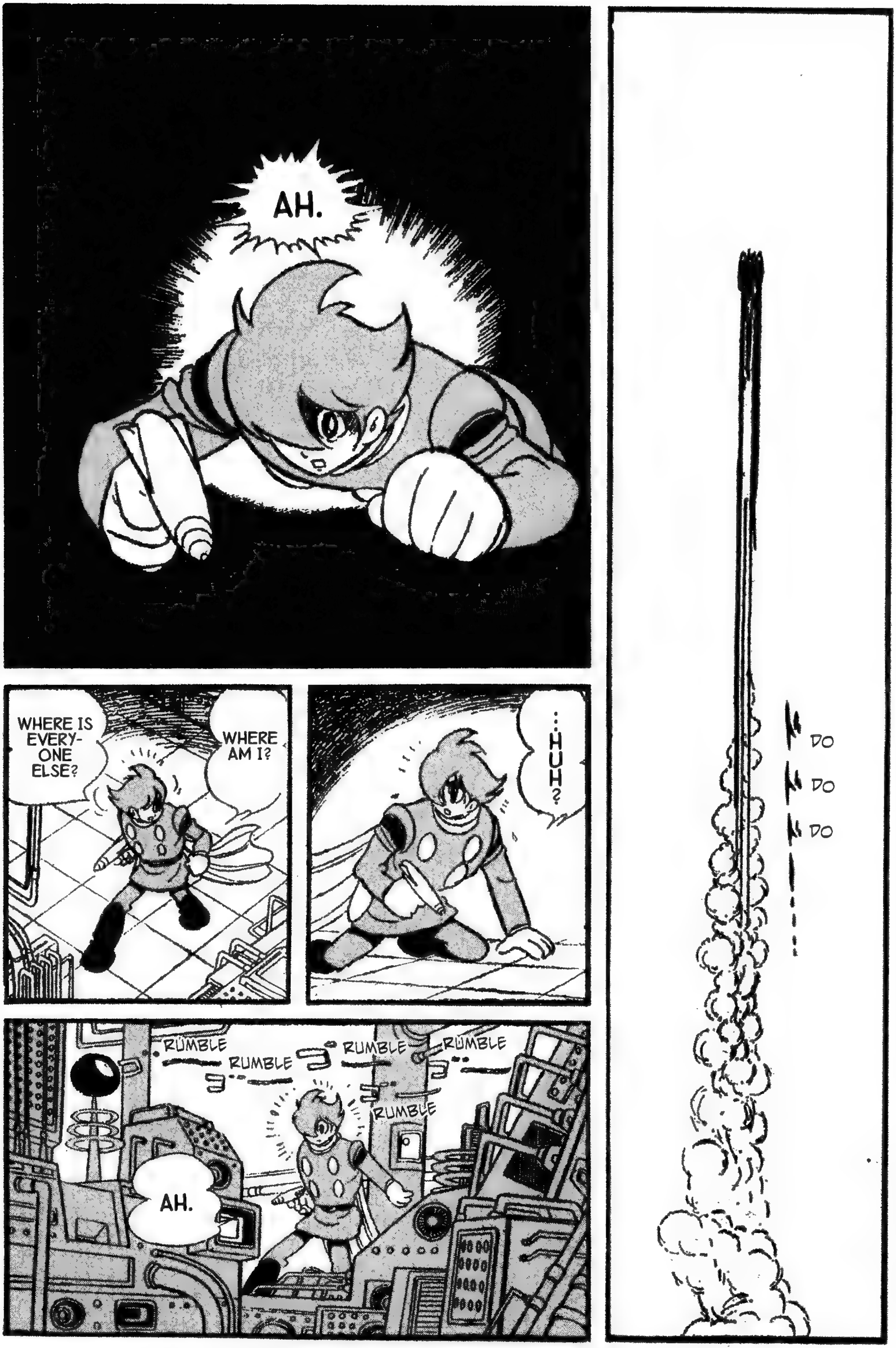

OOOOOOOW
DO
DO
DO
DO

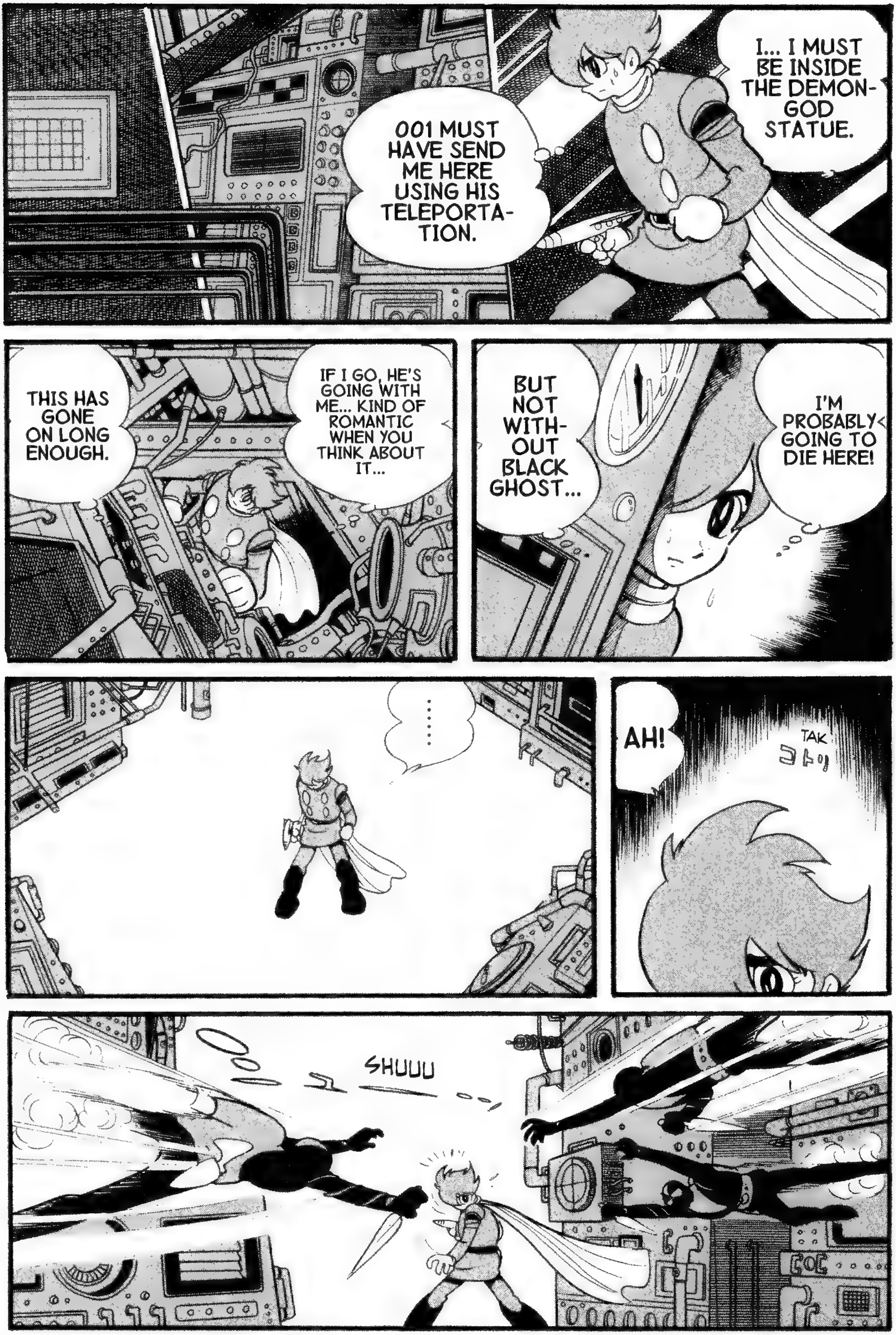

You've caused me and this organization far too much trouble, especially since we're responsible for your creation!
BWA HA HA HA HA
WAH HA HA HA HA
Good-bye!
FWOOOOO
Hu hu hu, wah ha ha ha ha...
My precious zero zero cyborgs...
Believe me when I say this is the last time our paths will cross. I've placed hydrogen bombs all throughout Hades.

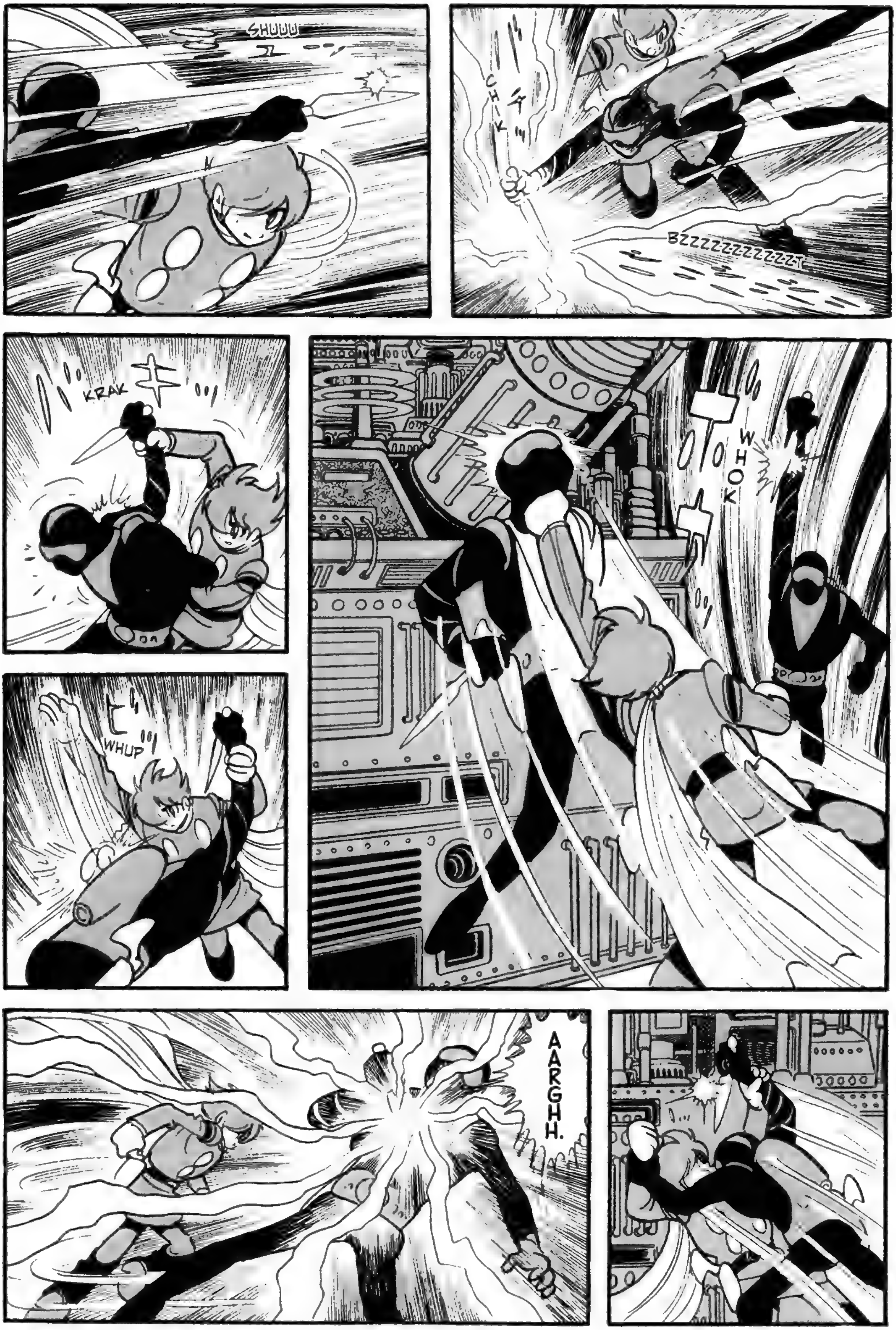

RUMBLE

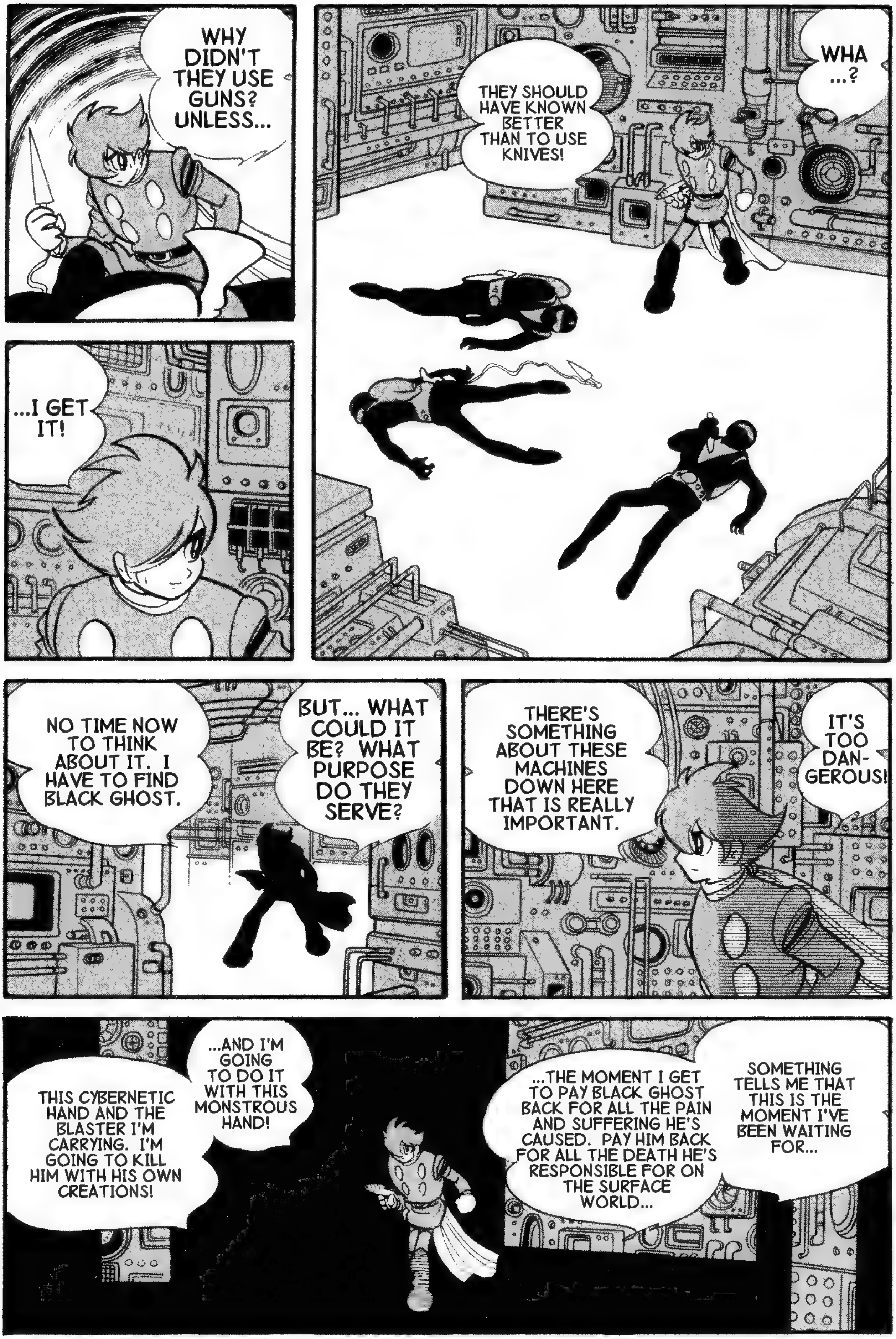

DO
DO
DO
DO
DO
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

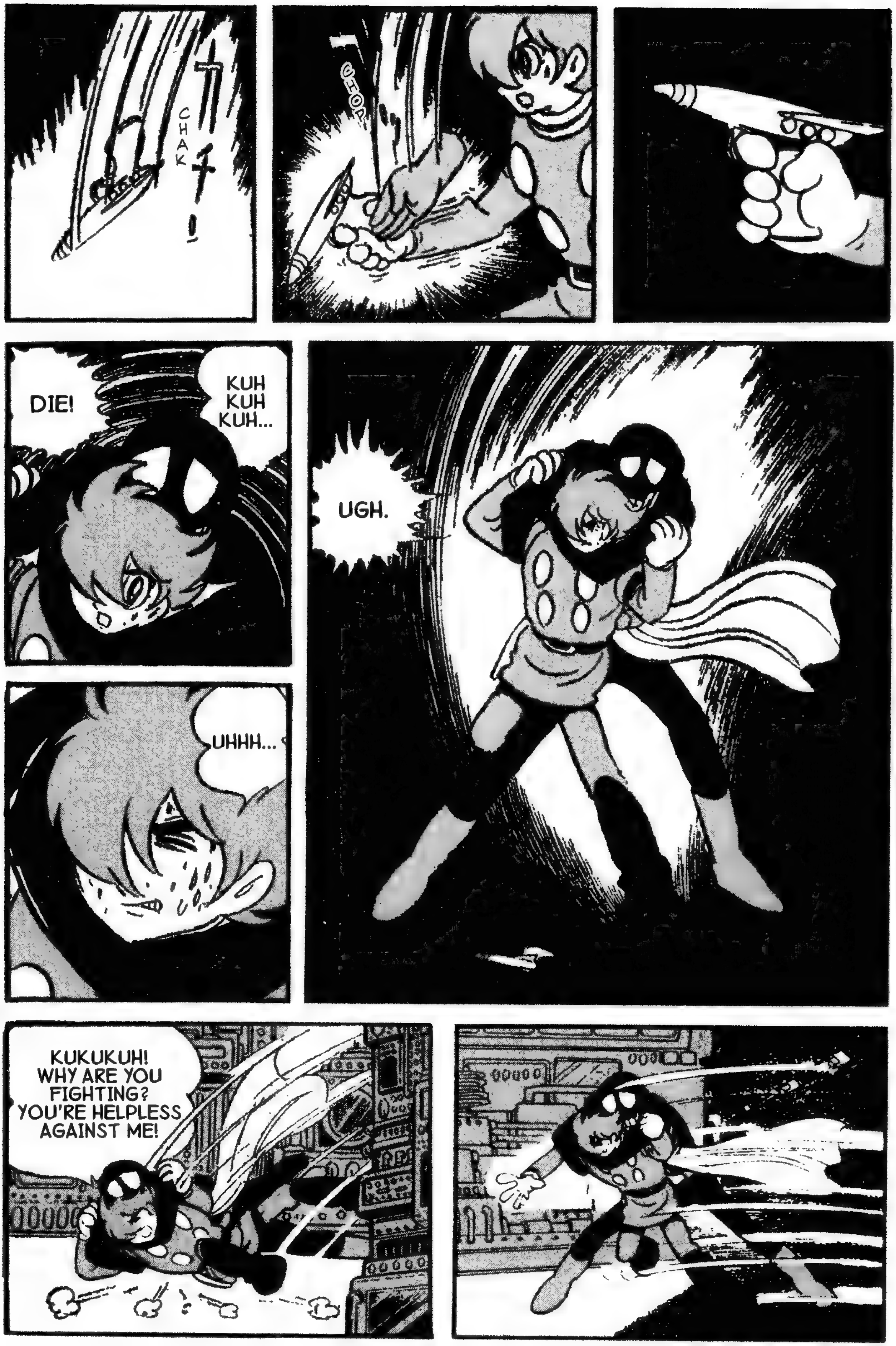


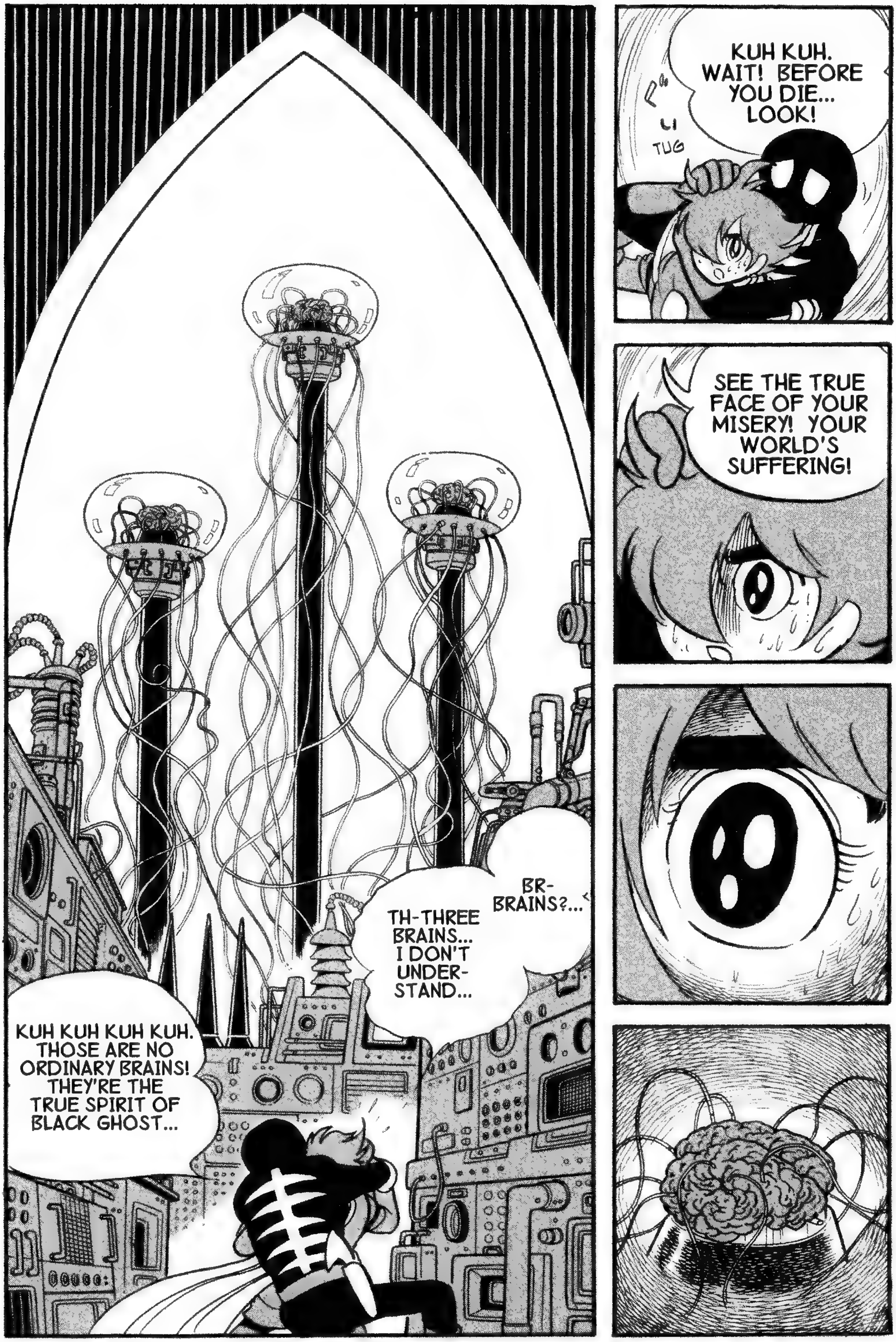

DO
DO
DO
AH.
...HUH?
WHERE AM I?
WHERE IS EVERYONE ELSE?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
AH.

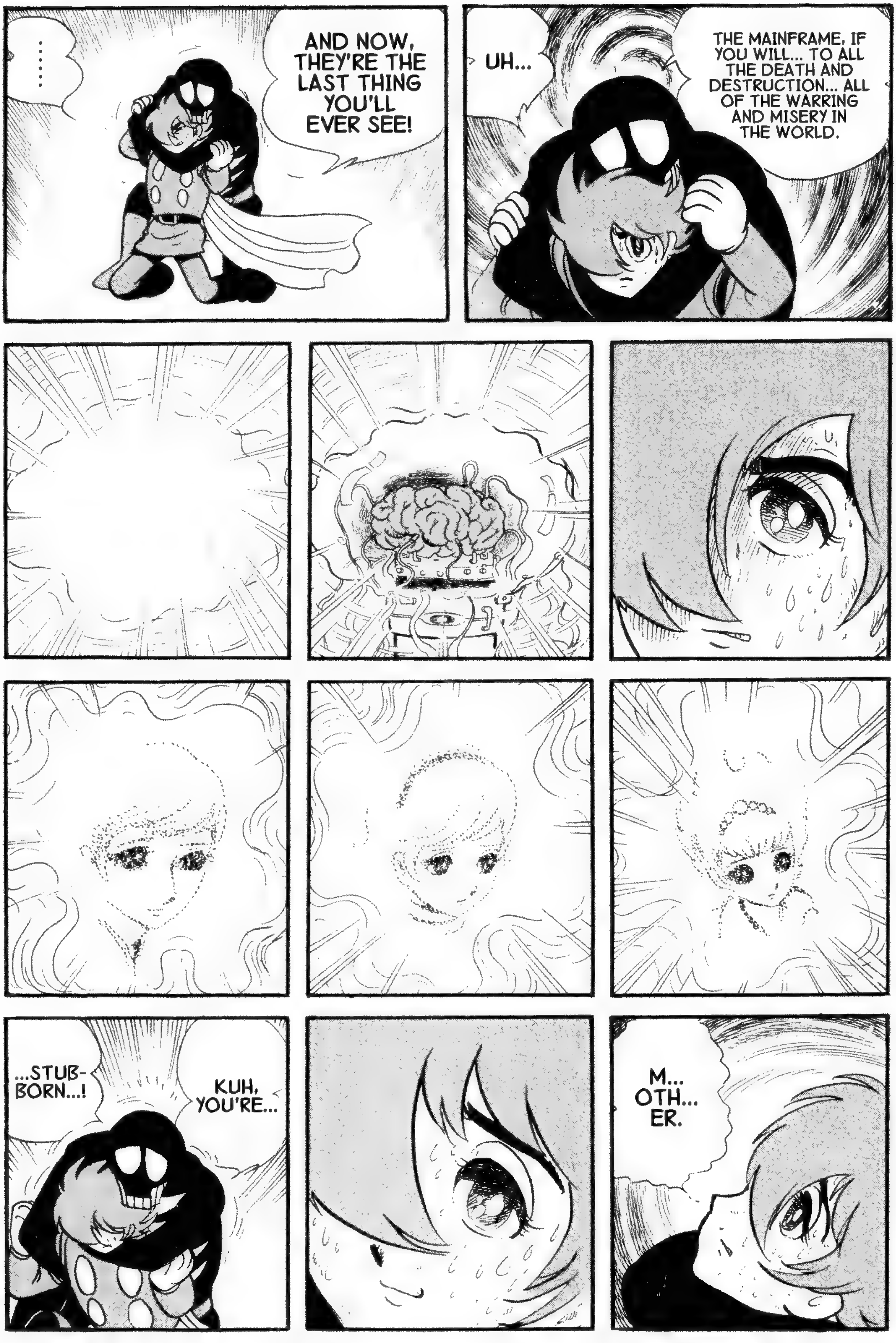

I... I MUST BE INSIDE THE DEMON-GOD STATUE.
001 MUST HAVE SEND ME HERE USING HIS TELEPORTATION.
I'M PROBABLY GOING TO DIE HERE!
BUT NOT WITHOUT BLACK GHOST...
IF I GO, HE'S GOING WITH ME... KIND OF ROMANTIC WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
THIS HAS GONE ON LONG ENOUGH.
TAK
コトリ
AH!
......
SHUUU

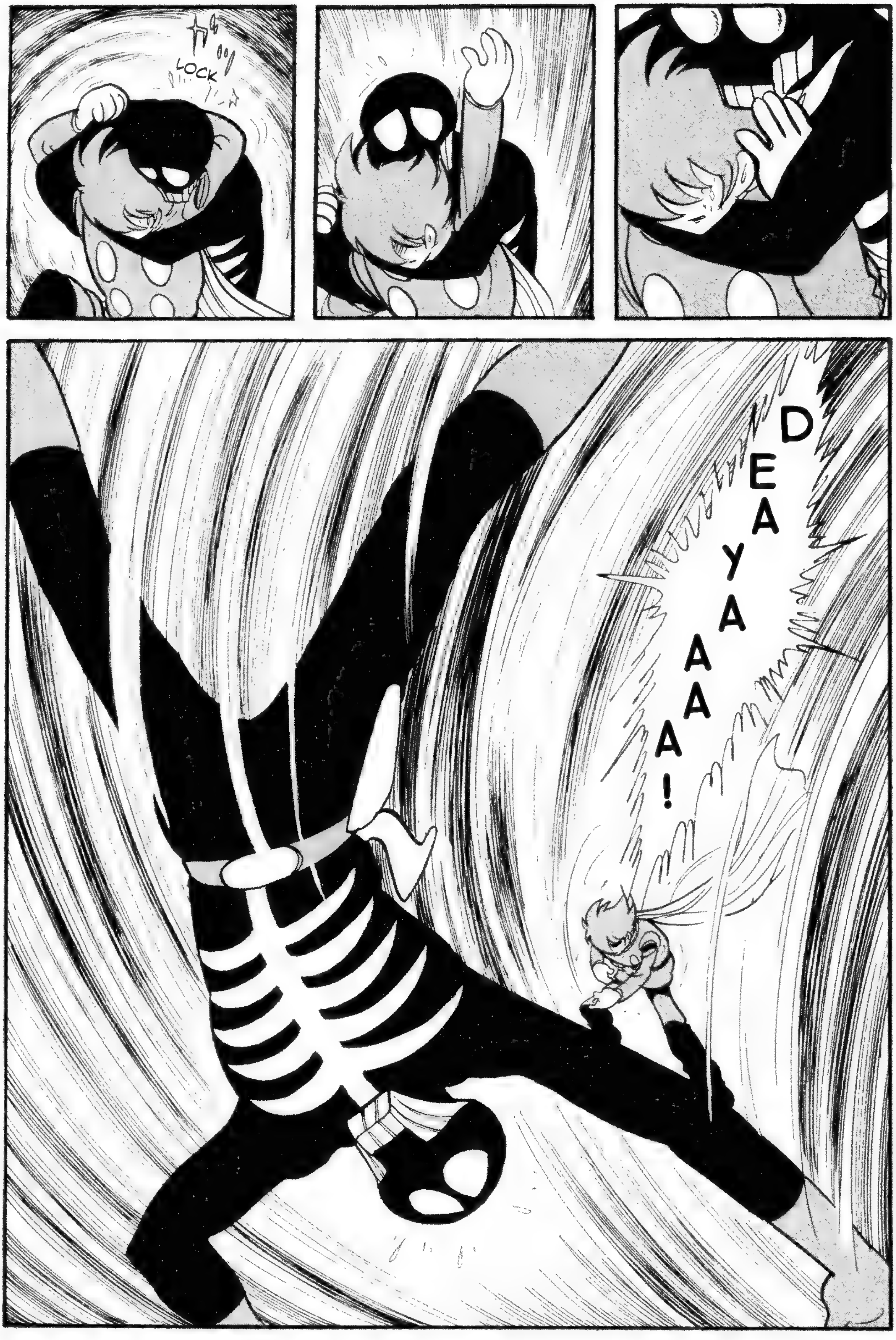

CHIK チ
BZZZZZZZZZZZZT
SHUUU ス
N
WHOK
KRAK キ
WHUP ヒ
AARGHH.

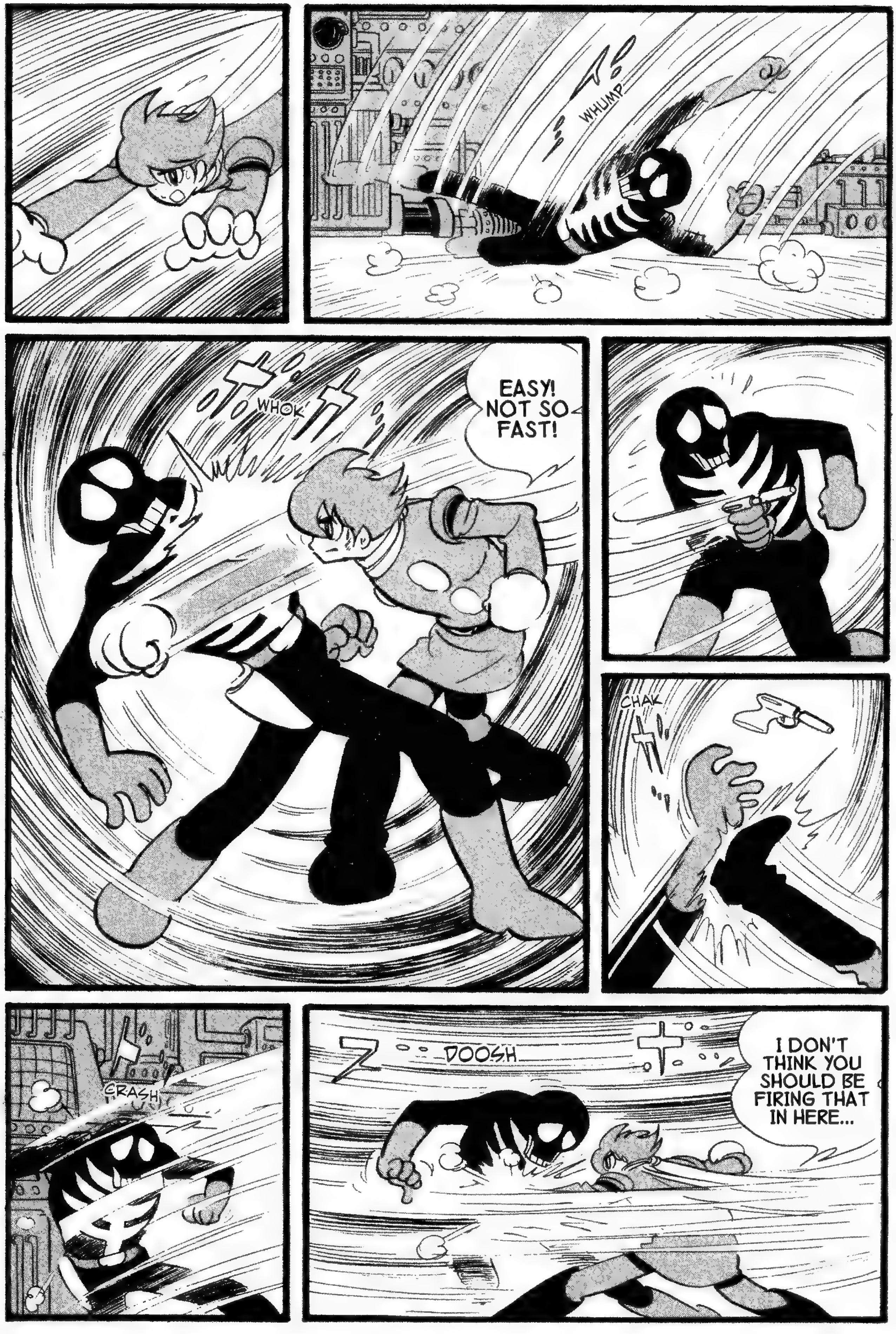

WHA ...?
THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO USE KNIVES!
WHY DIDN'T THEY USE GUNS? UNLESS...
...I GET IT!
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THESE MACHINES DOWN HERE THAT IS REALLY IMPORTANT.
BUT... WHAT COULD IT BE? WHAT PURPOSE DO THEY SERVE?
NO TIME NOW TO THINK ABOUT IT. I HAVE TO FIND BLACK GHOST.
SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...
...THE MOMENT I GET TO PAY BLACK GHOST BACK FOR ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING HE'S CAUSED. PAY HIM BACK FOR ALL THE DEATH HE'S RESPONSIBLE FOR ON THE SURFACE WORLD...
...AND I'M GOING TO DO IT WITH THIS MONSTROUS HAND!
THIS CYBERNETIC HAND AND THE BLASTER I'M CARRYING. I'M GOING TO KILL HIM WITH HIS OWN CREATIONS!

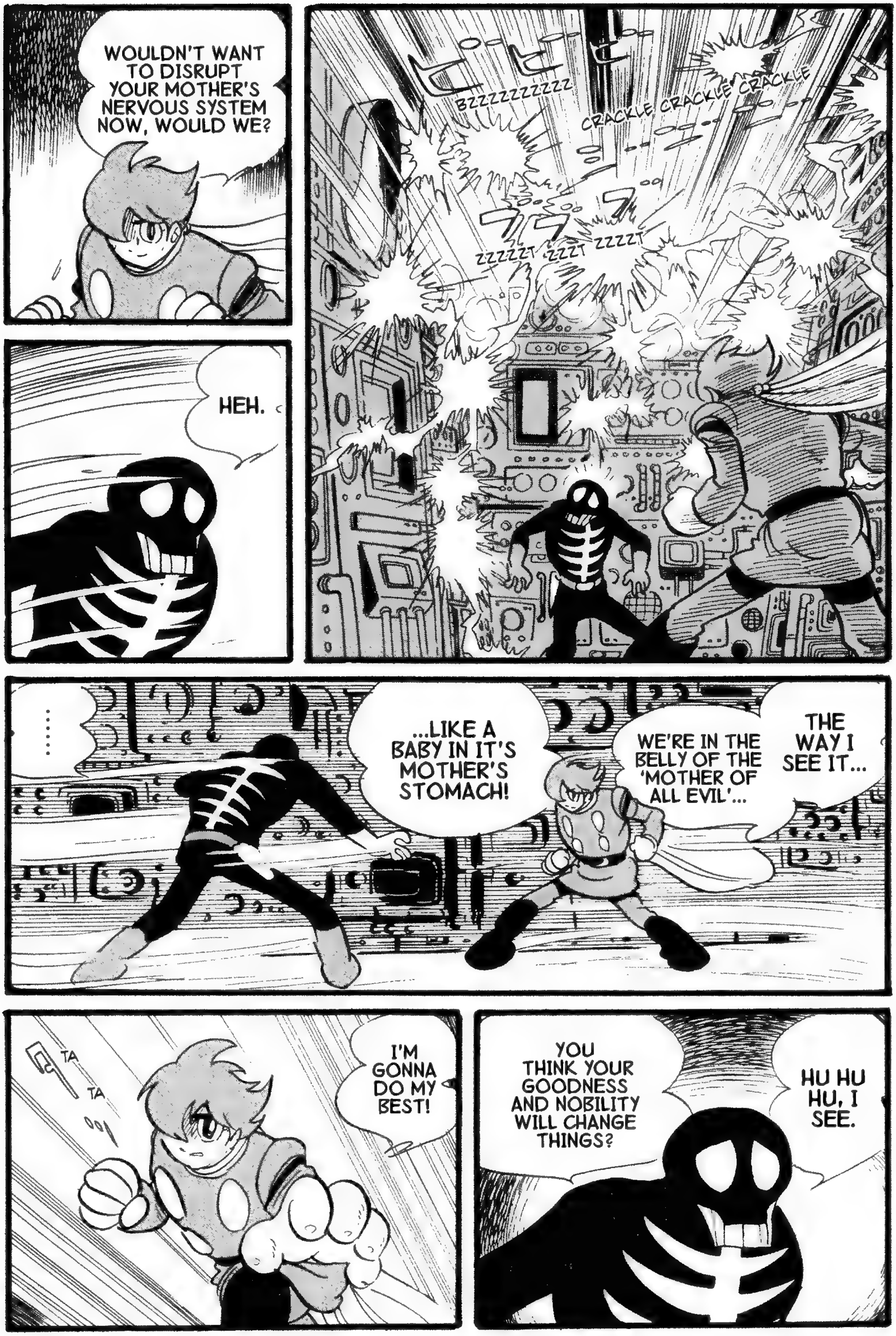

CHAK
CHOP
DIE!
KUH KUH KUH...
UGH.
UHHH...
KUKUKUH! WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING? YOU'RE HELPLESS AGAINST ME!

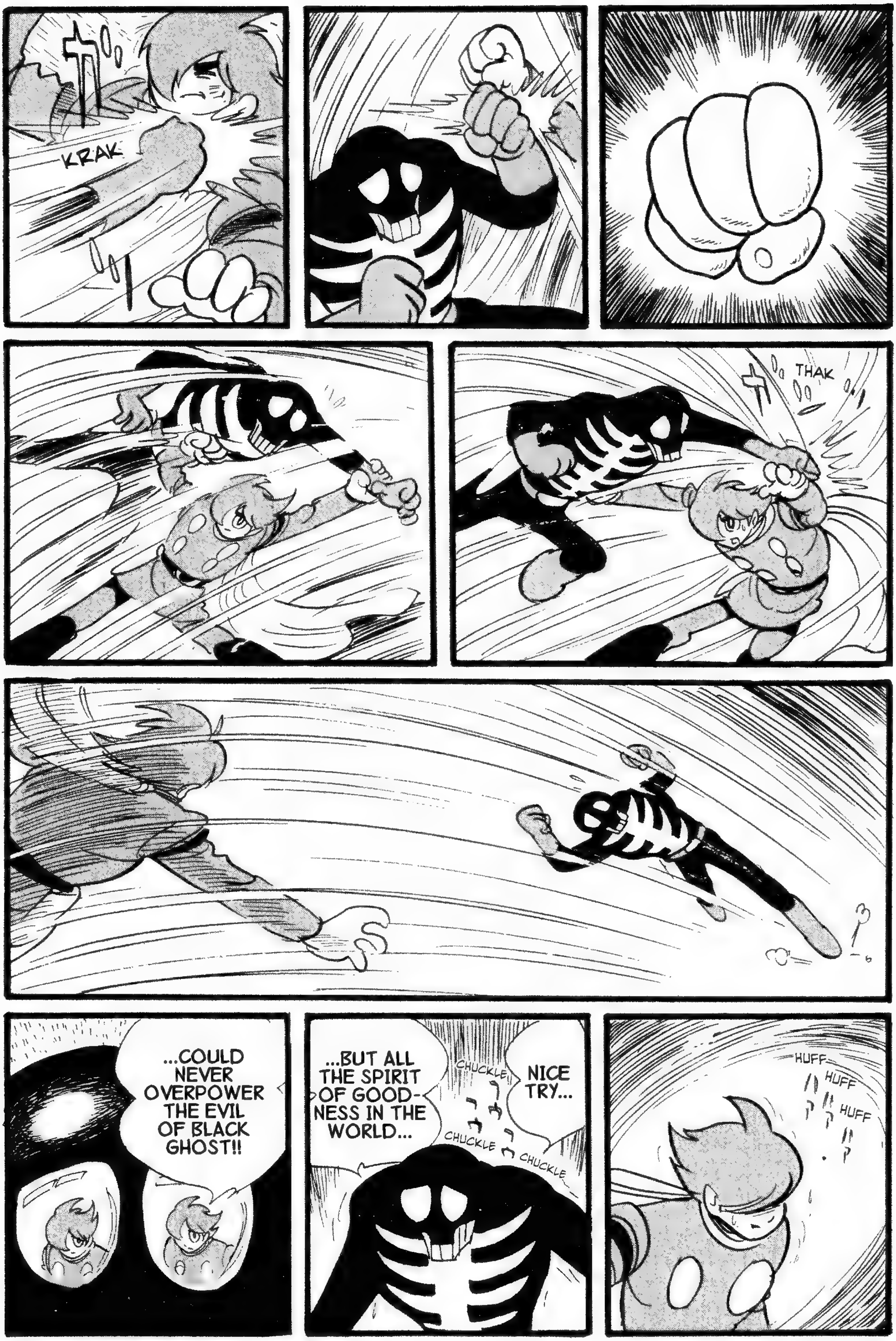

KUH KUH. WAIT! BEFORE YOU DIE... LOOK!
TUG
SEE THE TRUE FACE OF YOUR MISERY! YOUR WORLD'S SUFFERING!
BR- BRAINS?...
TH-THREE BRAINS... I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
KUH KUH KUH KUH. THOSE ARE NO ORDINARY BRAINS! THEY'RE THE TRUE SPIRIT OF BLACK GHOST...

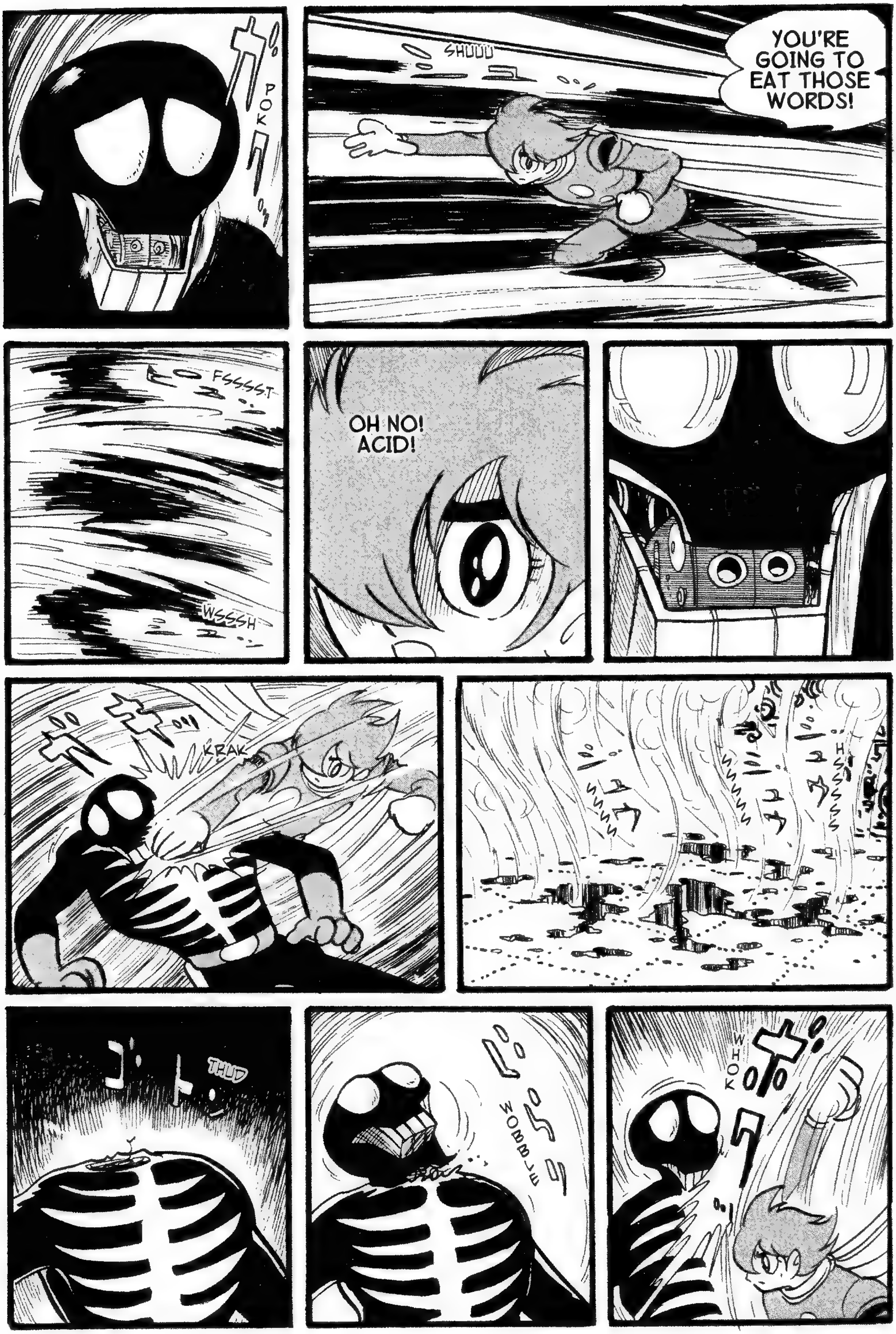

THE MAINFRAME, IF YOU WILL... TO ALL THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION... ALL OF THE WARRING AND MISERY IN THE WORLD.
UH...
AND NOW, THEY'RE THE LAST THING YOU'LL EVER SEE!
......
M... OTH... ER.
KUH, YOU'RE...
...STUBBORN...!

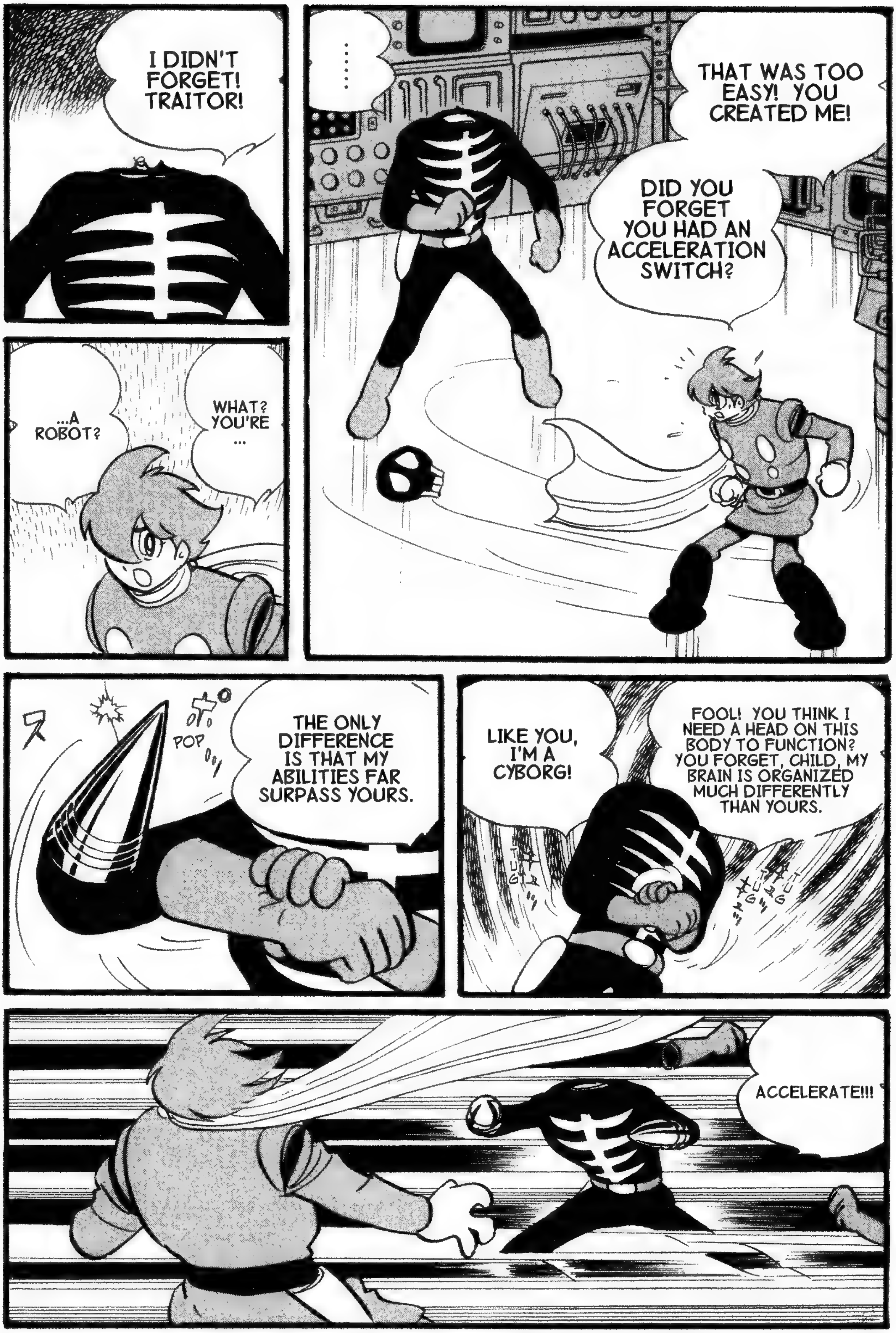

ガッ
LOCK
DEAYAAAAA!

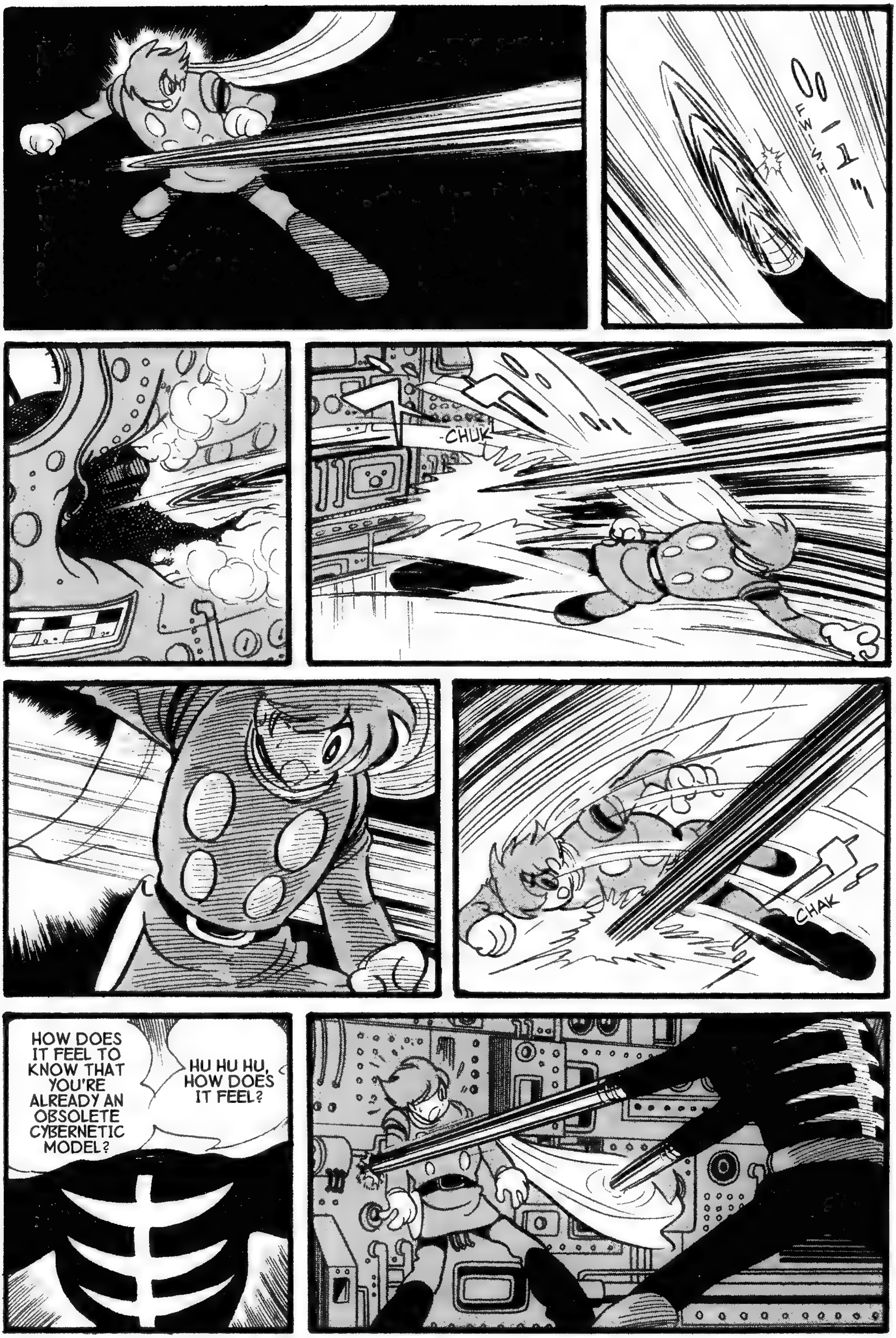

WHUMP
WHOK
EASY! NOT SO FAST!
CHAK
CRASH
DOOSH
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE FIRING THAT IN HERE...

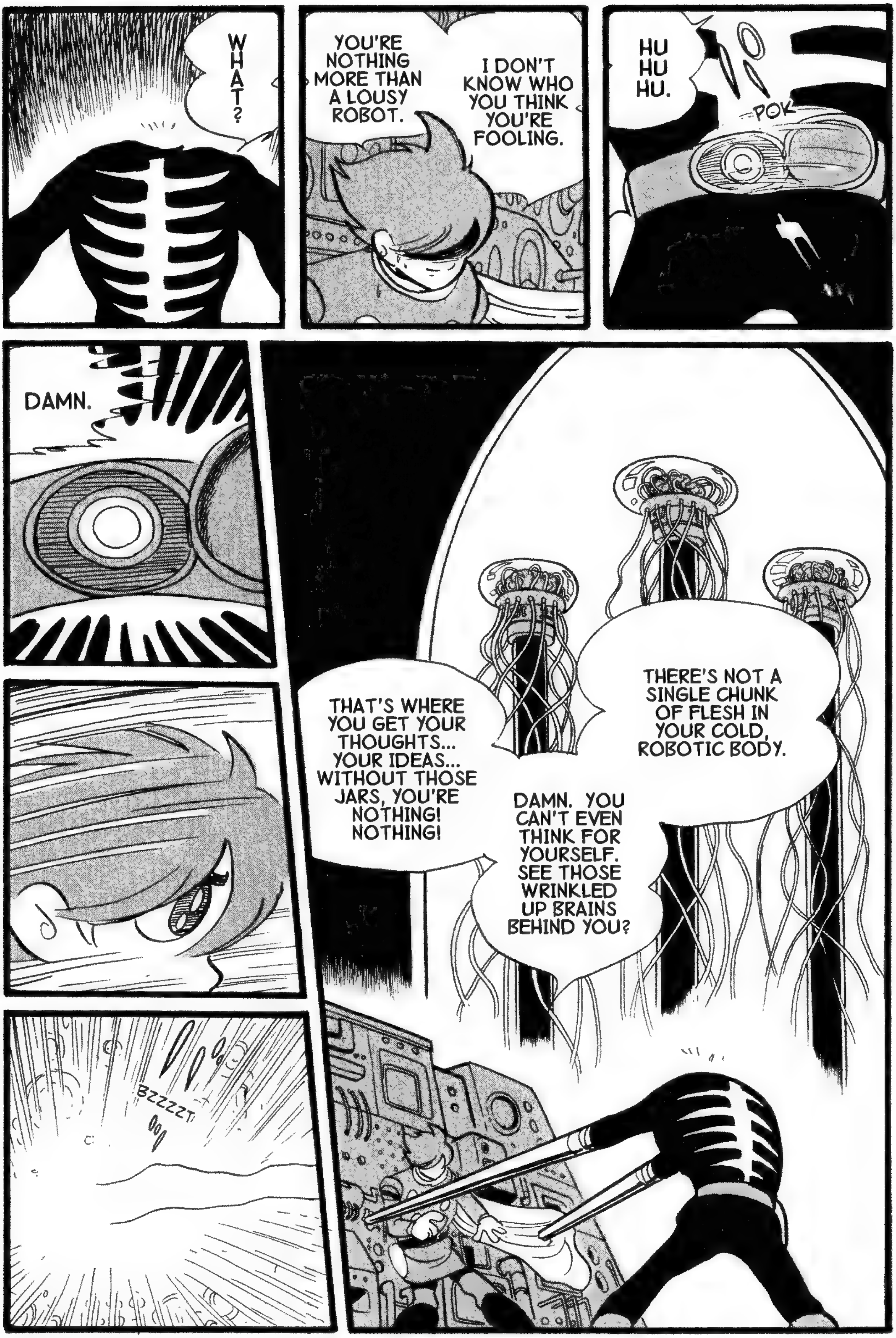

BZZZZZZZZZZ
CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
ZZZZZT ZZZT ZZZZT
WOULDN'T WANT TO DISRUPT YOUR MOTHER'S NERVOUS SYSTEM NOW, WOULD WE?
HEH.
THE WAY I SEE IT...
WE'RE IN THE BELLY OF THE 'MOTHER OF ALL EVIL'...
...LIKE A BABY IN IT'S MOTHER'S STOMACH!
......
HU HU HU, I SEE.
YOU THINK YOUR GOODNESS AND NOBILITY WILL CHANGE THINGS?
I'M GONNA DO MY BEST!
TA
TA

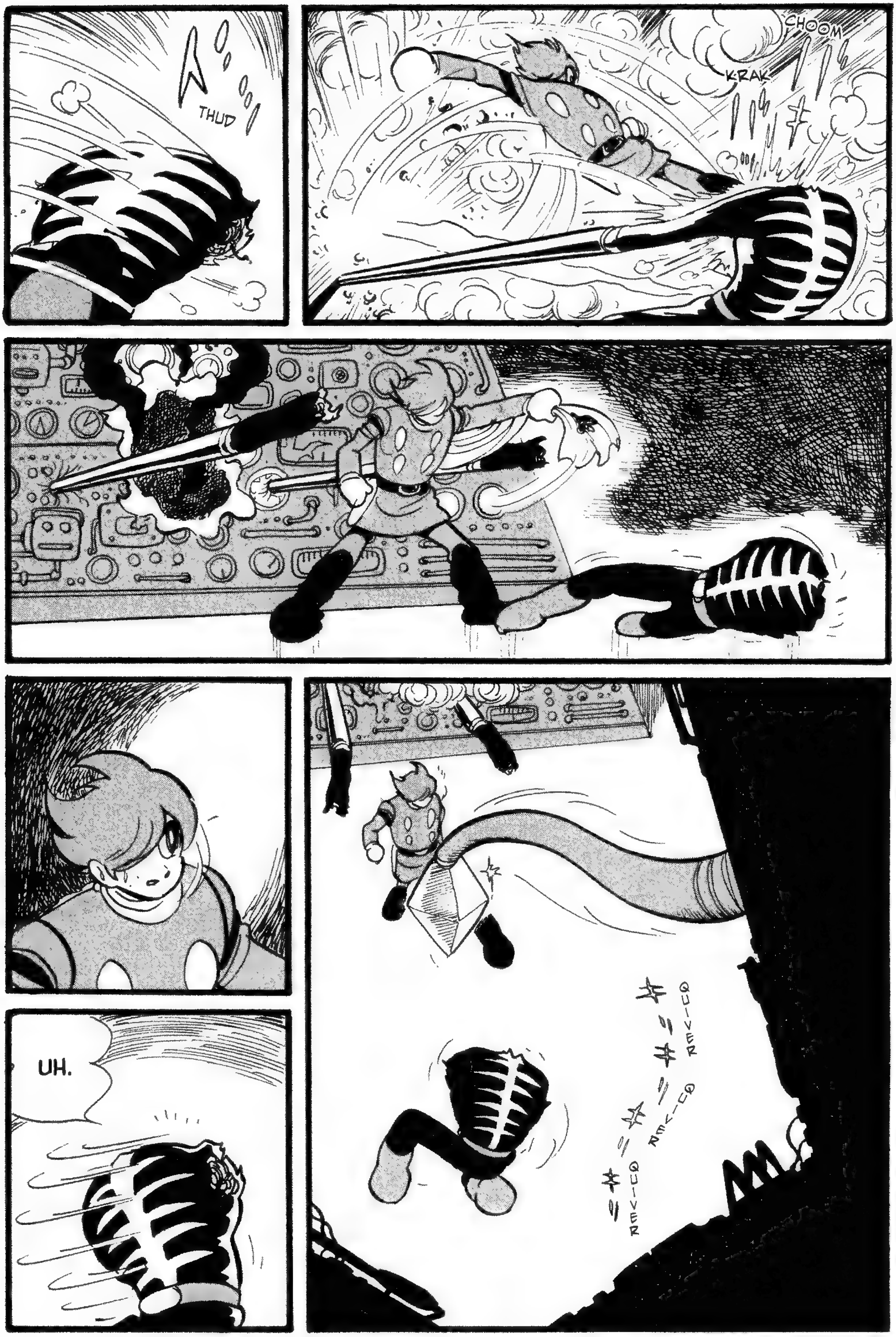

KRAK
THAK
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
NICE TRY...
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
...BUT ALL THE SPIRIT OF GOODNESS IN THE WORLD...
...COULD NEVER OVERPOWER THE EVIL OF BLACK GHOST!!

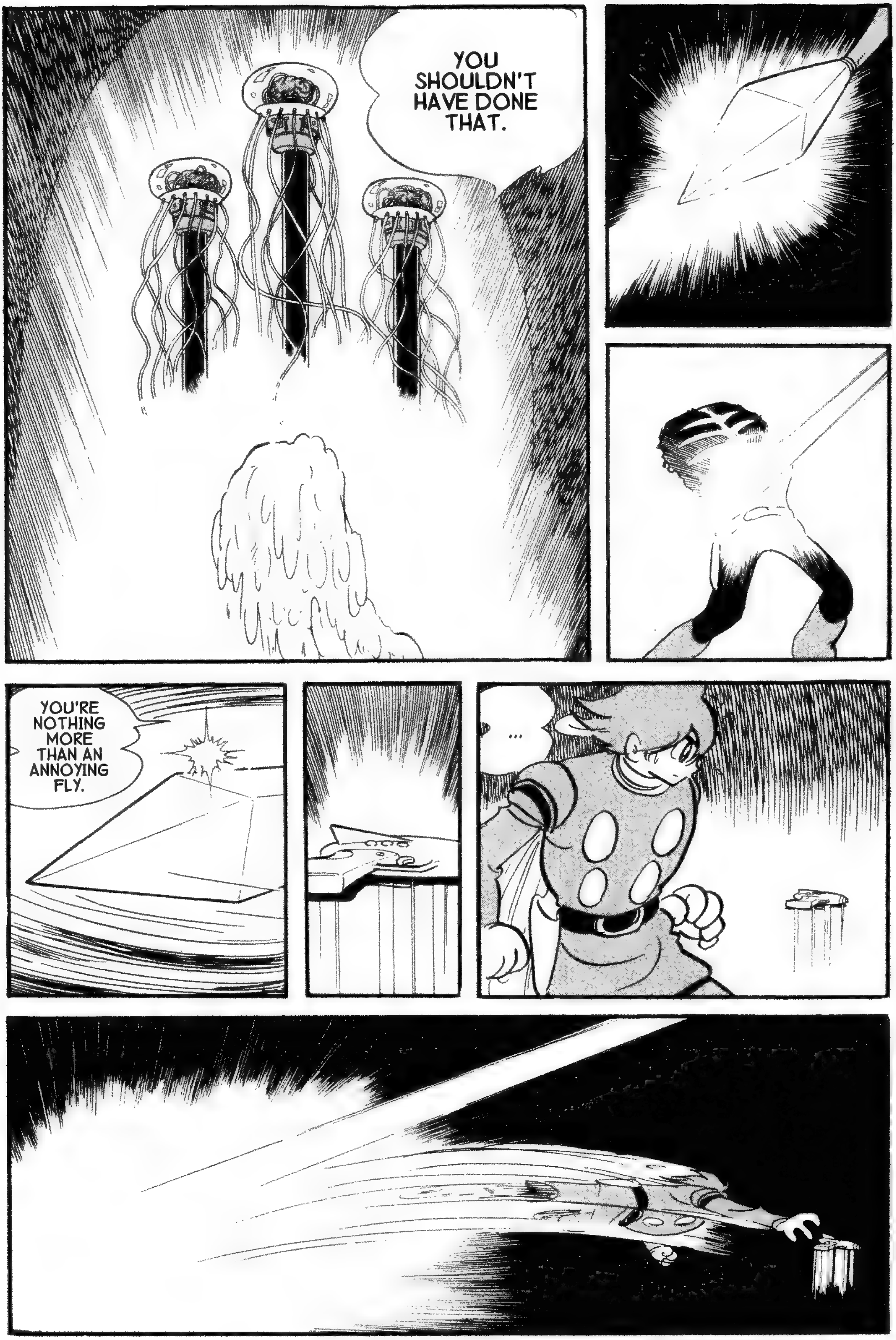

POK
SHUUU
YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THOSE WORDS!
FSSSST
WSSSH
OH NO! ACID!
KRAK
SSSSS
SSSSS
HSSSSS
THUD
WOBBLE
WHOK

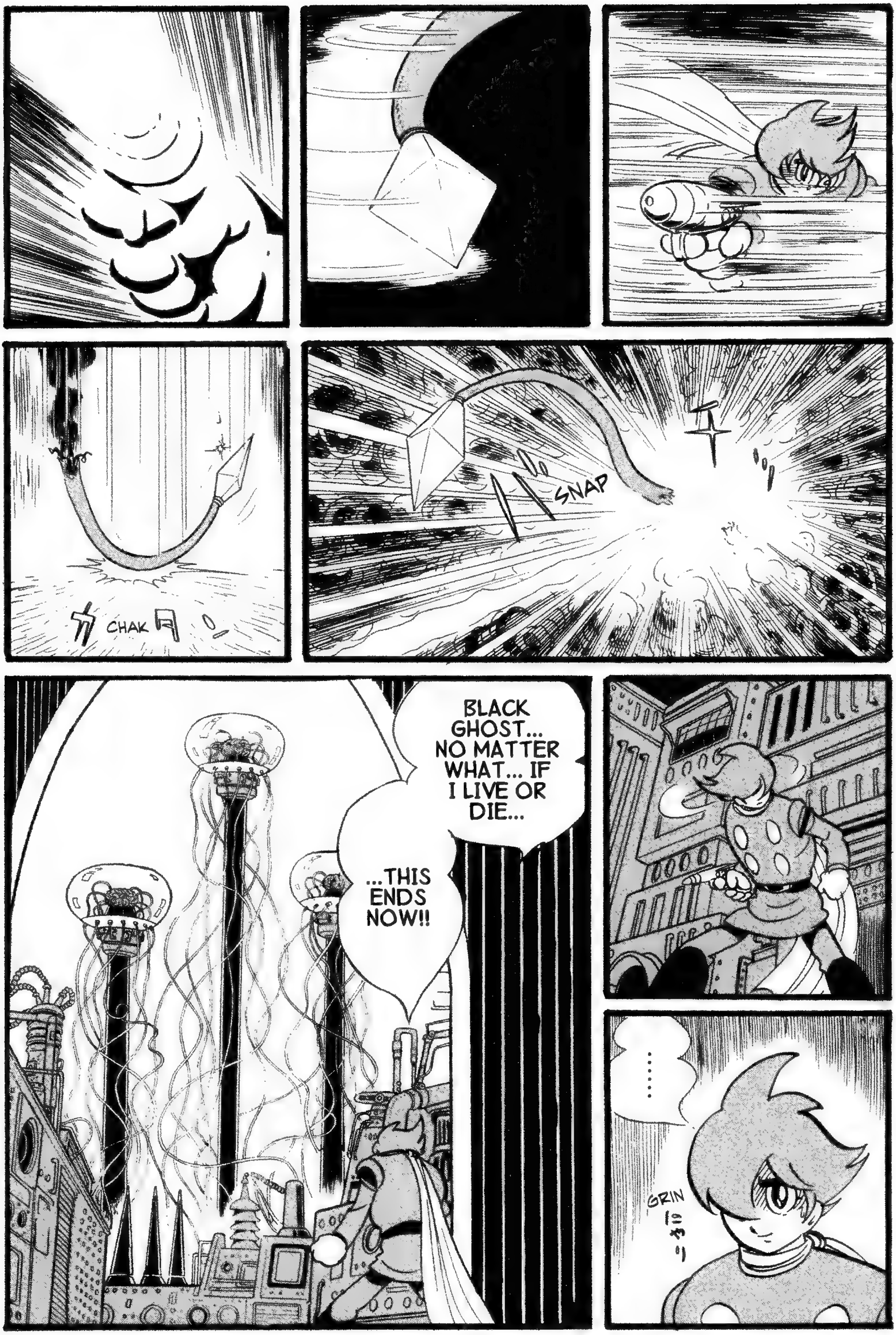

I DIDN'T FORGET! TRAITOR!
...A ROBOT?
WHAT? YOU'RE ...
......
THAT WAS TOO EASY! YOU CREATED ME!
DID YOU FORGET YOU HAD AN ACCELERATION SWITCH?
POP
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT MY ABILITIES FAR SURPASS YOURS.
LIKE YOU, I'M A CYBORG!
FOOL! YOU THINK I NEED A HEAD ON THIS BODY TO FUNCTION? YOU FORGET, CHILD, MY BRAIN IS ORGANIZED MUCH DIFFERENTLY THAN YOURS.
TUG
TUG TUG
ACCELERATE!!!

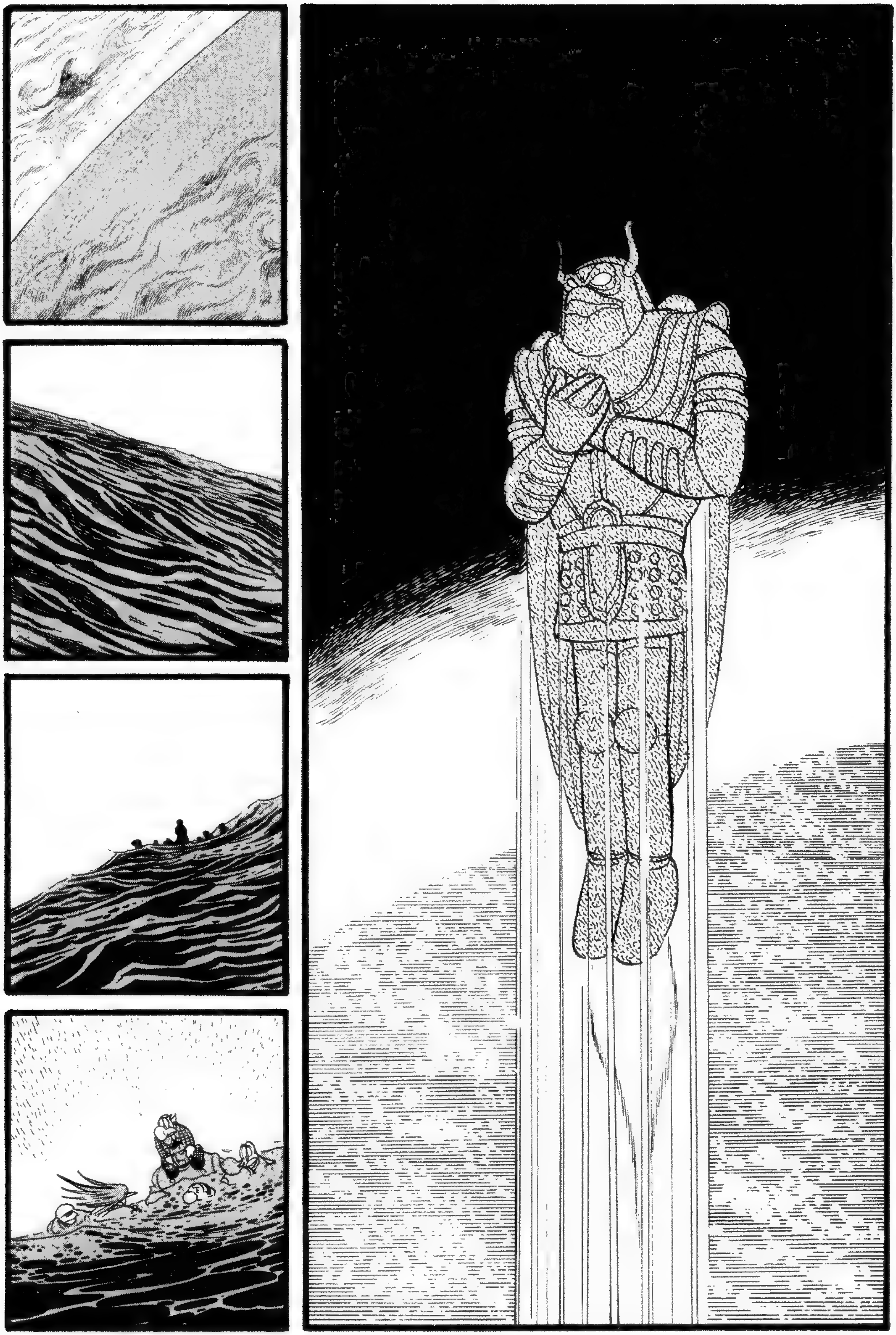

FWISH
-CHUK
CHAK
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW THAT YOU'RE ALREADY AN OBSOLETE CYBERNETIC MODEL?
HU HU HU, HOW DOES IT FEEL?

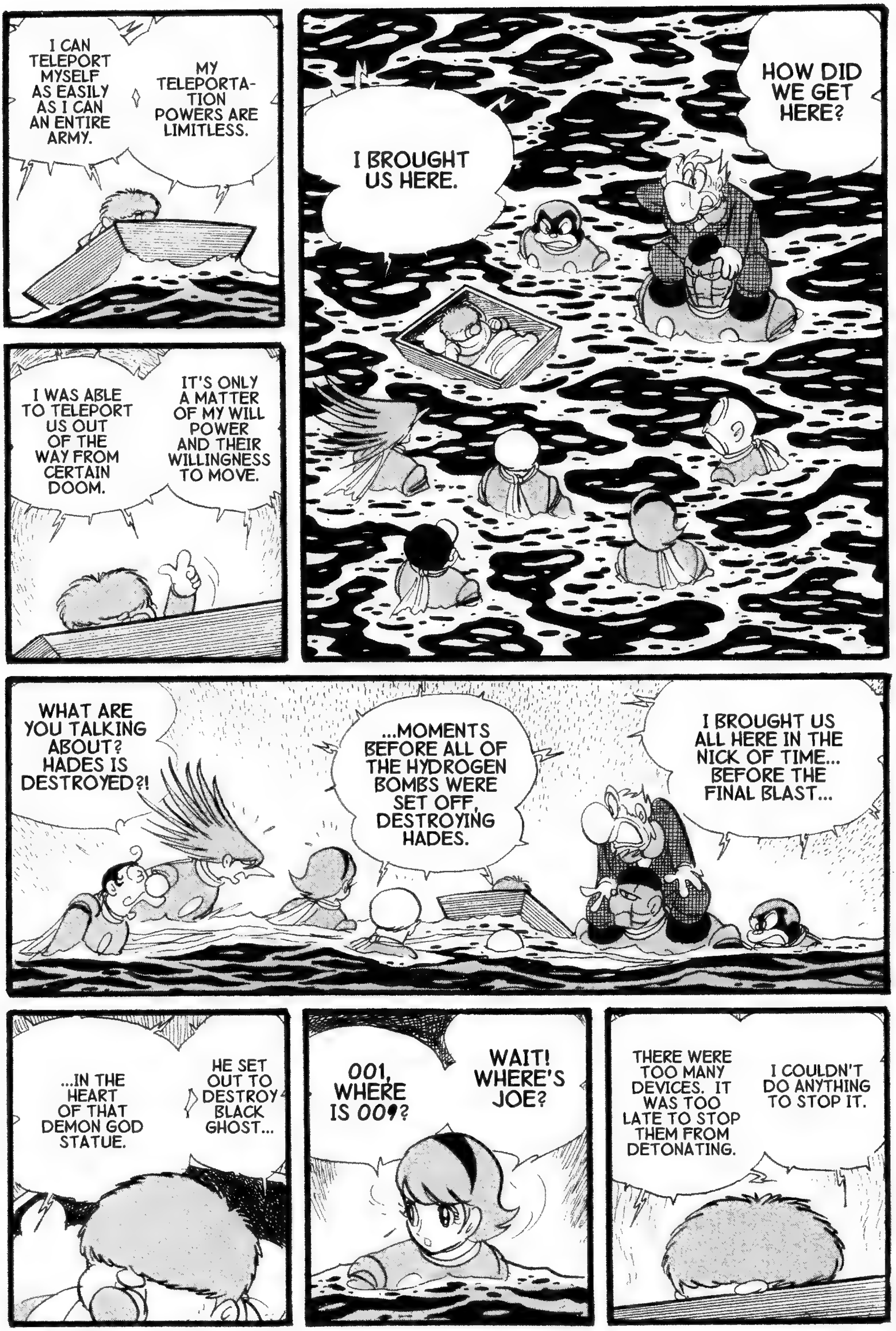

WHAT?
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A LOUSY ROBOT.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING.
HU HU HU.
POK
DAMN.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE CHUNK OF FLESH IN YOUR COLD, ROBOTIC BODY.
DAMN. YOU CAN'T EVEN THINK FOR YOURSELF. SEE THOSE WRINKLED UP BRAINS BEHIND YOU?
THAT'S WHERE YOU GET YOUR THOUGHTS... YOUR IDEAS... WITHOUT THOSE JARS, YOU'RE NOTHING! NOTHING!
BZZZZZT

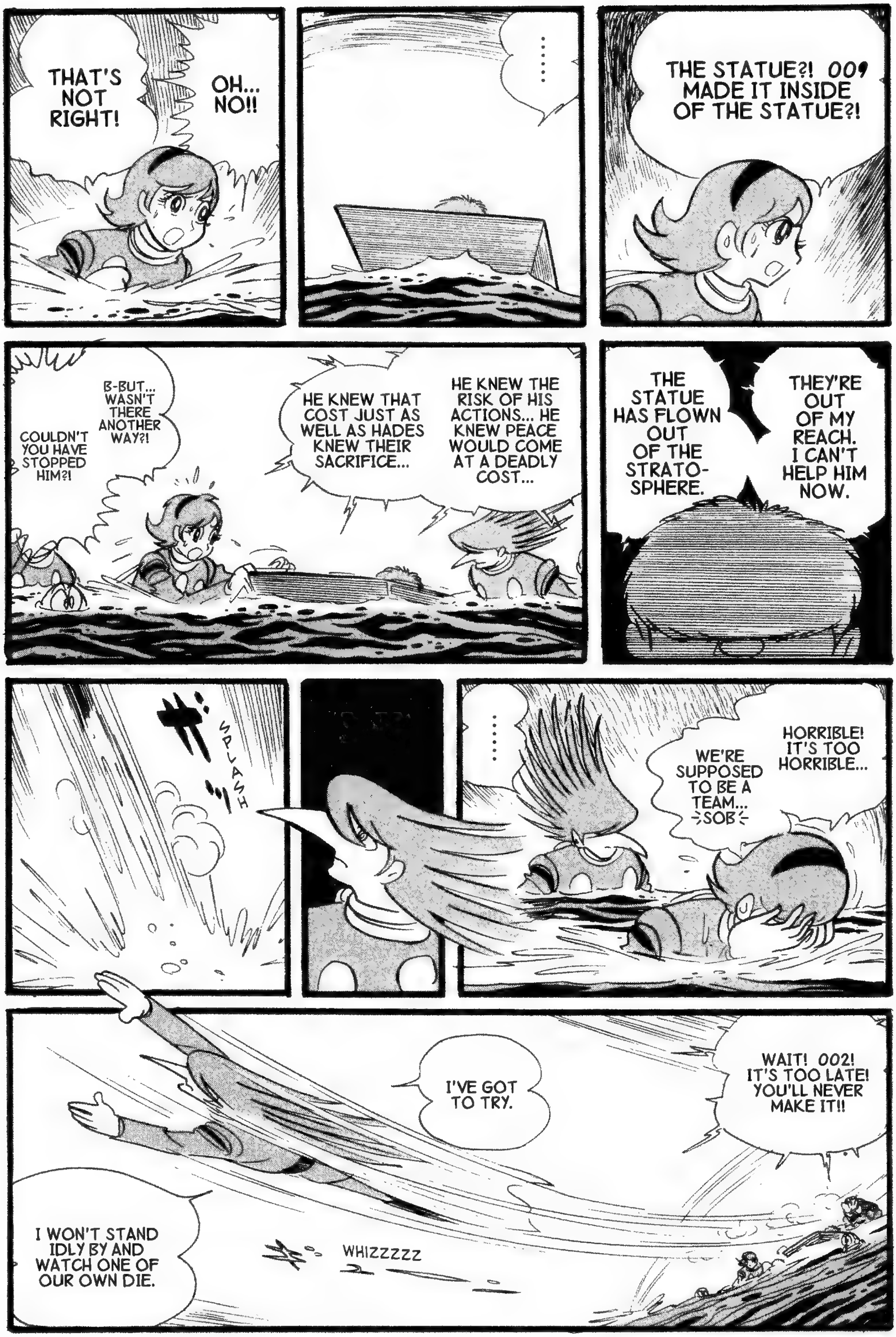

THUD
CHOOM
K-RAK
UH.
QUIVER
QUIVER
QUIVER

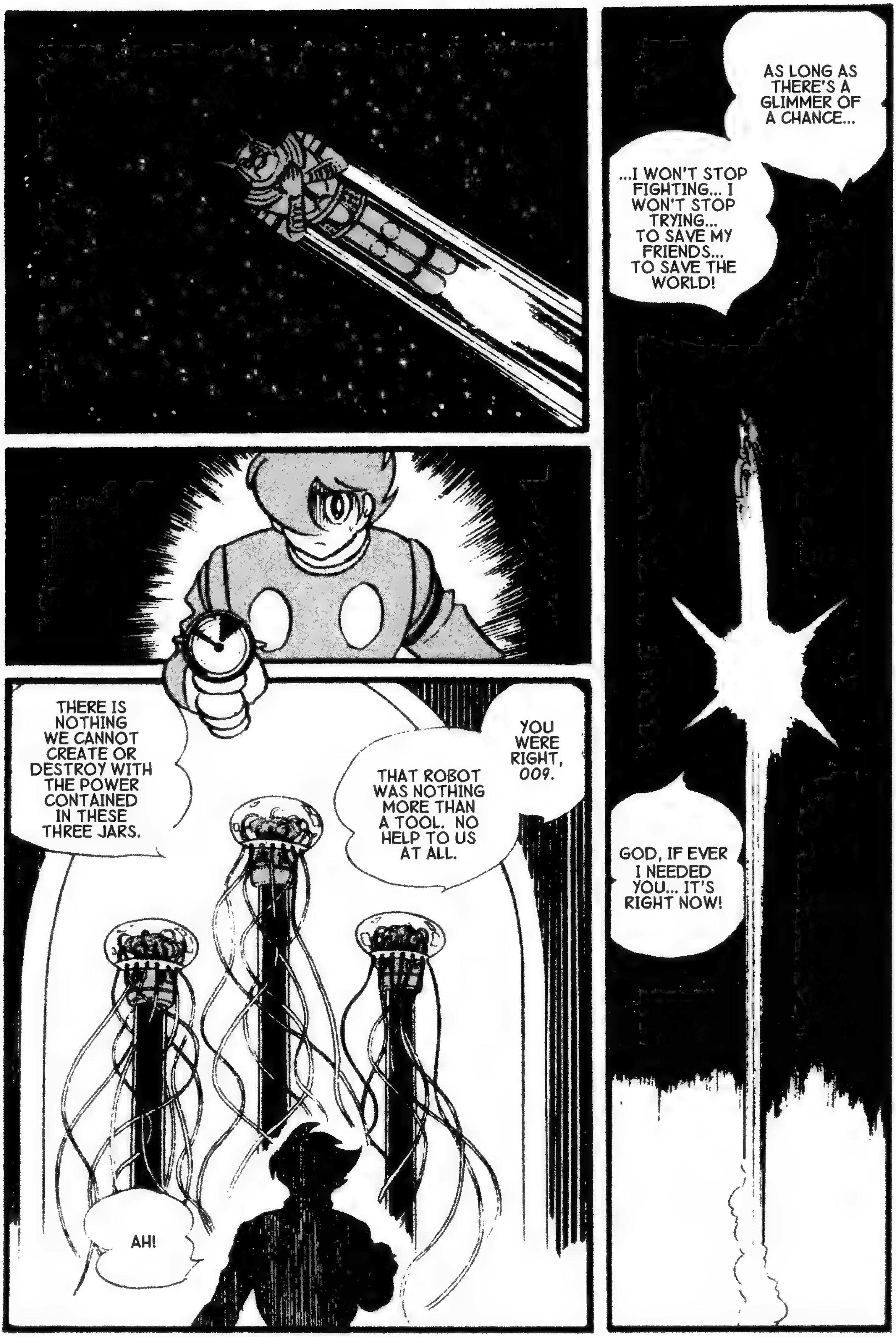

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN ANNOYING FLY.
...

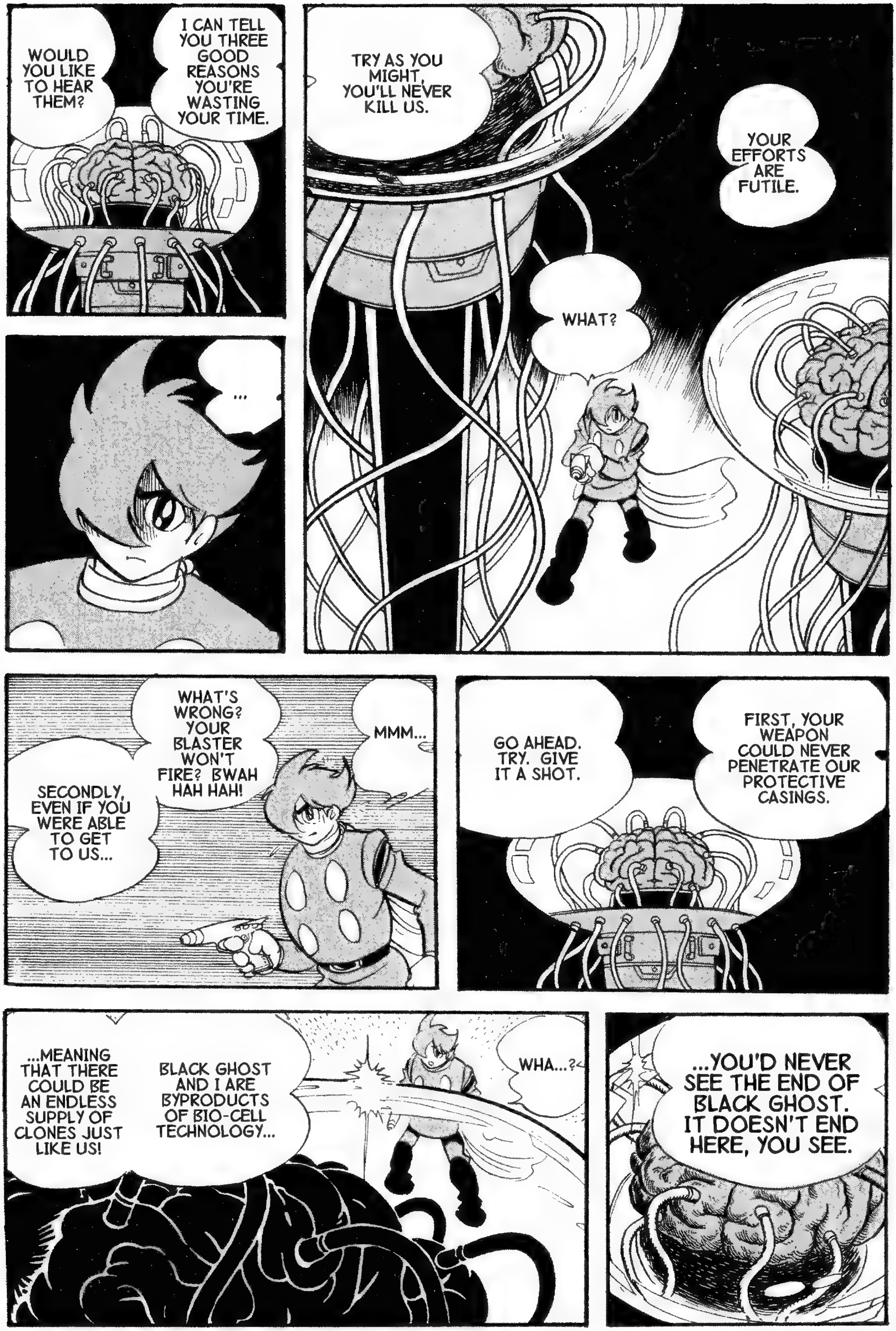

CHAK
SNAP
BLACK GHOST... NO MATTER WHAT... IF I LIVE OR DIE...
...THIS ENDS NOW!!
......
GRIN にやり

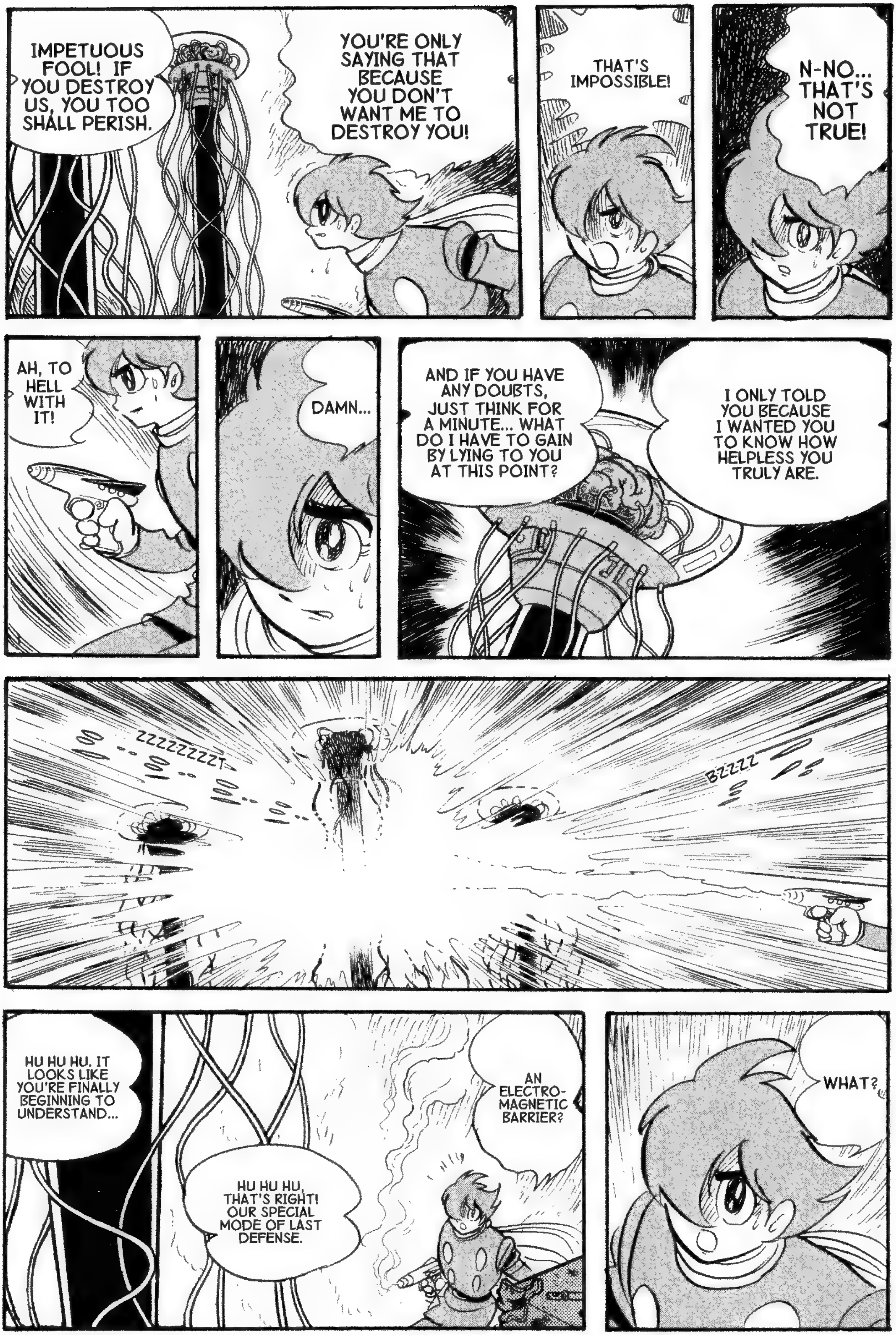


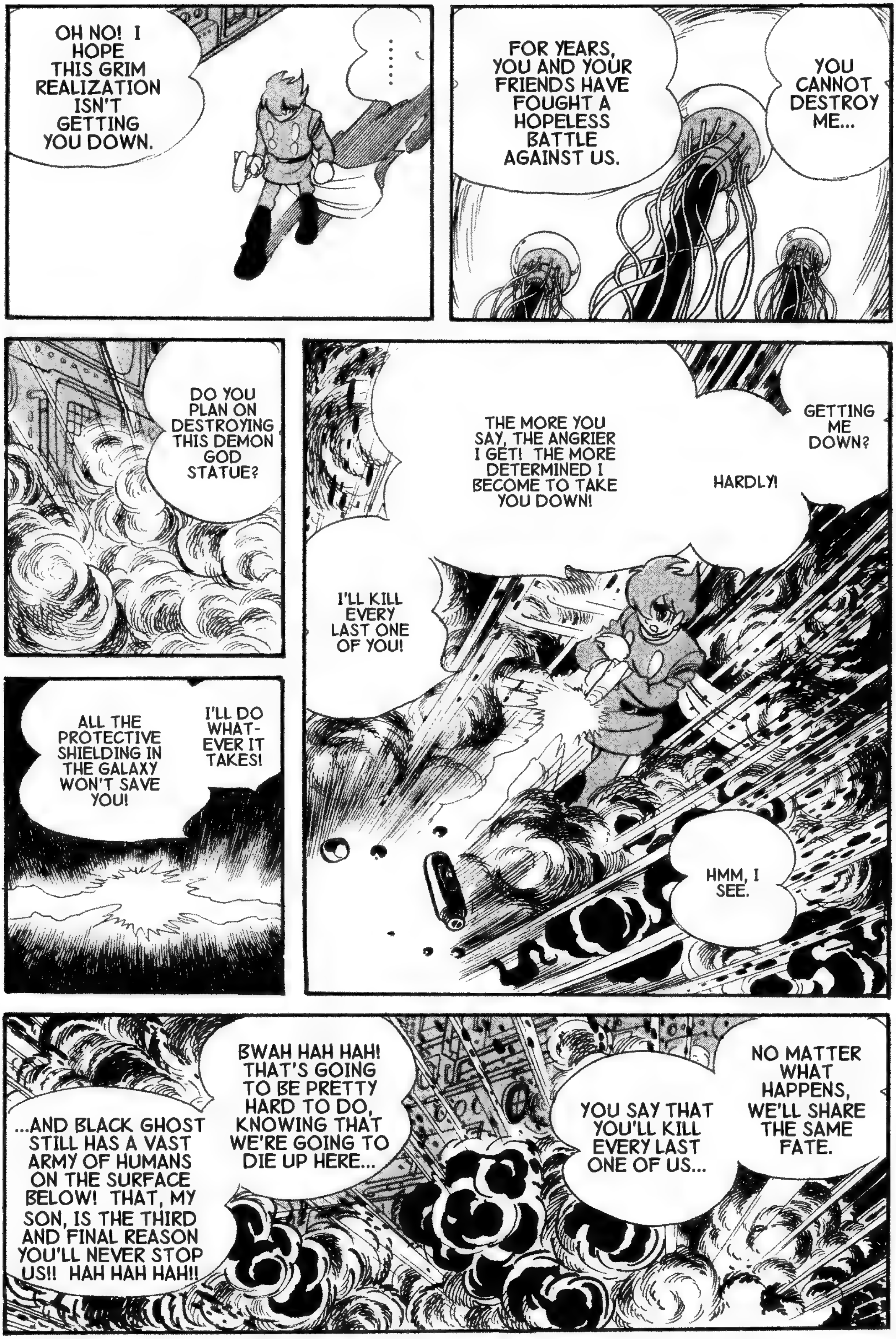

HOW DID WE GET HERE?
I BROUGHT US HERE.
MY TELEPORTATION POWERS ARE LIMITLESS.
I CAN TELEPORT MYSELF AS EASILY AS I CAN AN ENTIRE ARMY.
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MY WILL POWER AND THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MOVE.
I WAS ABLE TO TELEPORT US OUT OF THE WAY FROM CERTAIN DOOM.
I BROUGHT US ALL HERE IN THE NICK OF TIME... BEFORE THE FINAL BLAST...
...MOMENTS BEFORE ALL OF THE HYDROGEN BOMBS WERE SET OFF, DESTROYING HADES.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HADES IS DESTROYED?!
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT.
THERE WERE TOO MANY DEVICES. IT WAS TOO LATE TO STOP THEM FROM DETONATING.
WAIT! WHERE'S JOE?
001, WHERE IS 009?
HE SET OUT TO DESTROY BLACK GHOST...
...IN THE HEART OF THAT DEMON GOD STATUE.

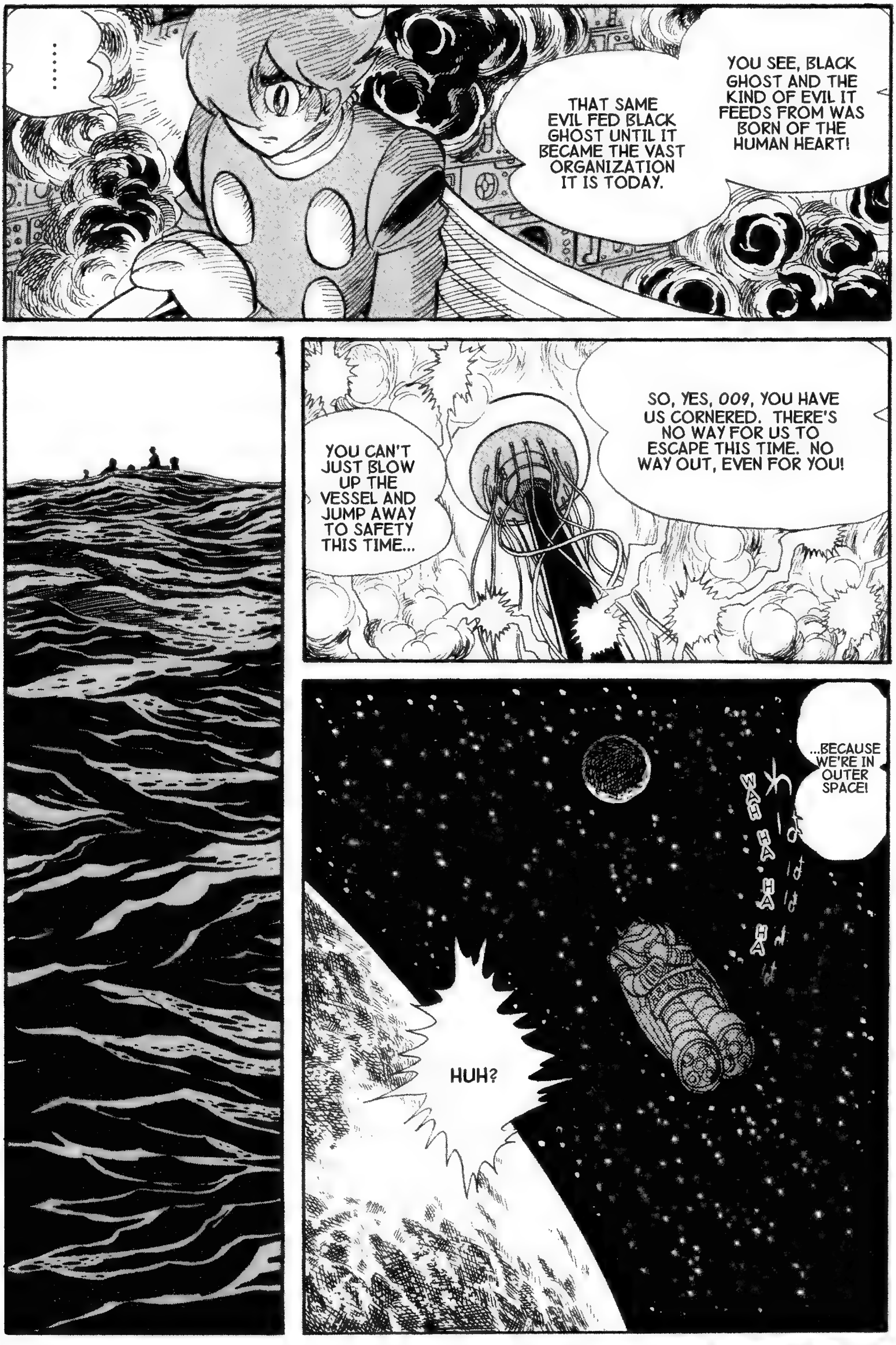

THAT'S NOT RIGHT!
OH... NO!!
......
THE STATUE?! 009 MADE IT INSIDE OF THE STATUE?!
COULDN'T YOU HAVE STOPPED HIM?!
B-BUT... WASN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY?!
HE KNEW THE RISK OF HIS ACTIONS... HE KNEW PEACE WOULD COME AT A DEADLY COST...
HE KNEW THAT COST JUST AS WELL AS HADES KNEW THEIR SACRIFICE...
THE STATUE HAS FLOWN OUT OF THE STRATOSPHERE.
THEY'RE OUT OF MY REACH. I CAN'T HELP HIM NOW.
SPLASH
......
HORRIBLE! IT'S TOO HORRIBLE...
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TEAM... SOB
WAIT! 002! IT'S TOO LATE! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!!
I'VE GOT TO TRY.
I WON'T STAND IDLY BY AND WATCH ONE OF OUR OWN DIE.
WHIZZZZZ

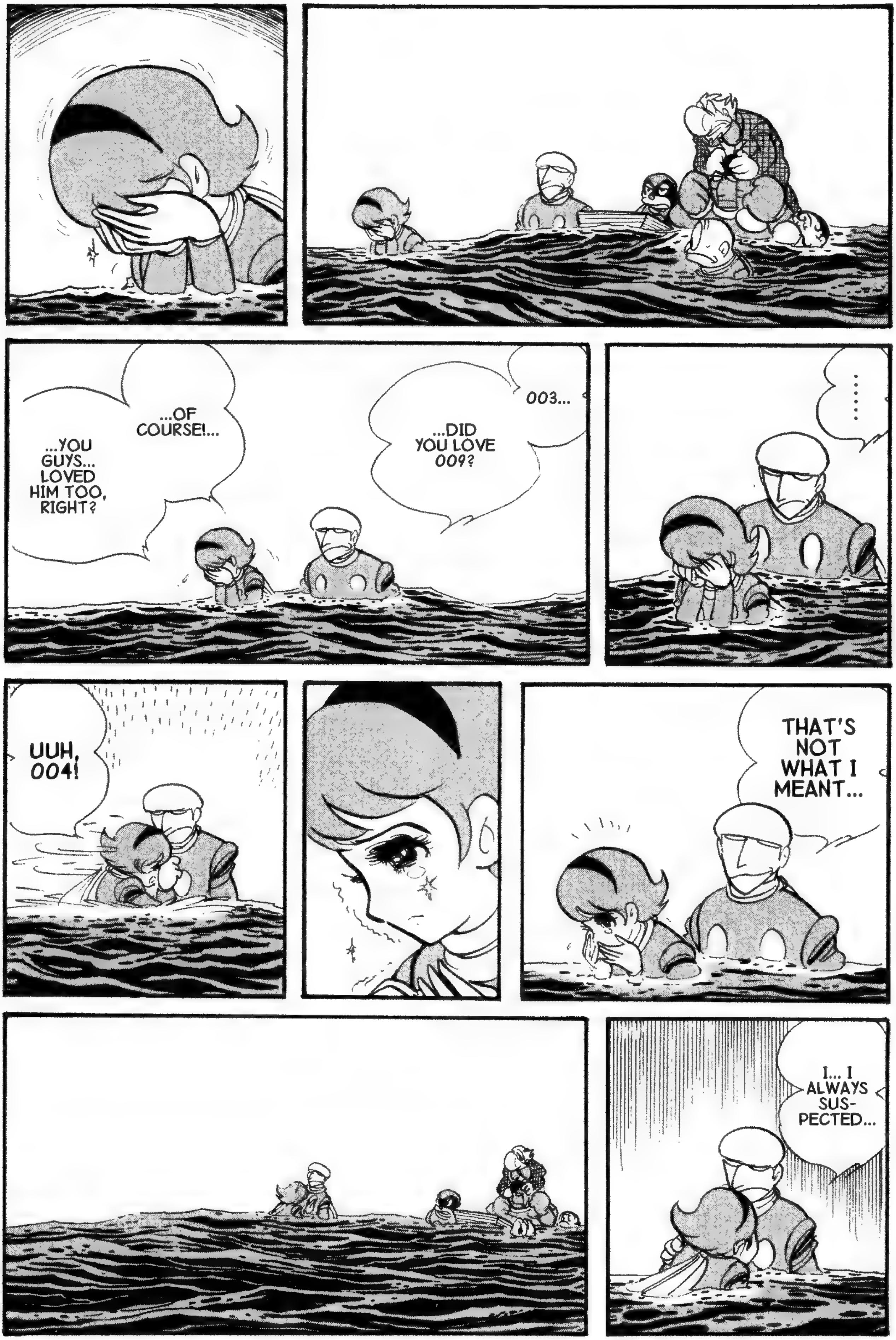

AS LONG AS THERE'S A GLIMMER OF A CHANCE...
...I WON'T STOP FIGHTING... I WON'T STOP TRYING... TO SAVE MY FRIENDS... TO SAVE THE WORLD!
GOD, IF EVER I NEEDED YOU... IT'S RIGHT NOW!
YOU WERE RIGHT, 009.
THAT ROBOT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A TOOL. NO HELP TO US AT ALL.
THERE IS NOTHING WE CANNOT CREATE OR DESTROY WITH THE POWER CONTAINED IN THESE THREE JARS.
AH!

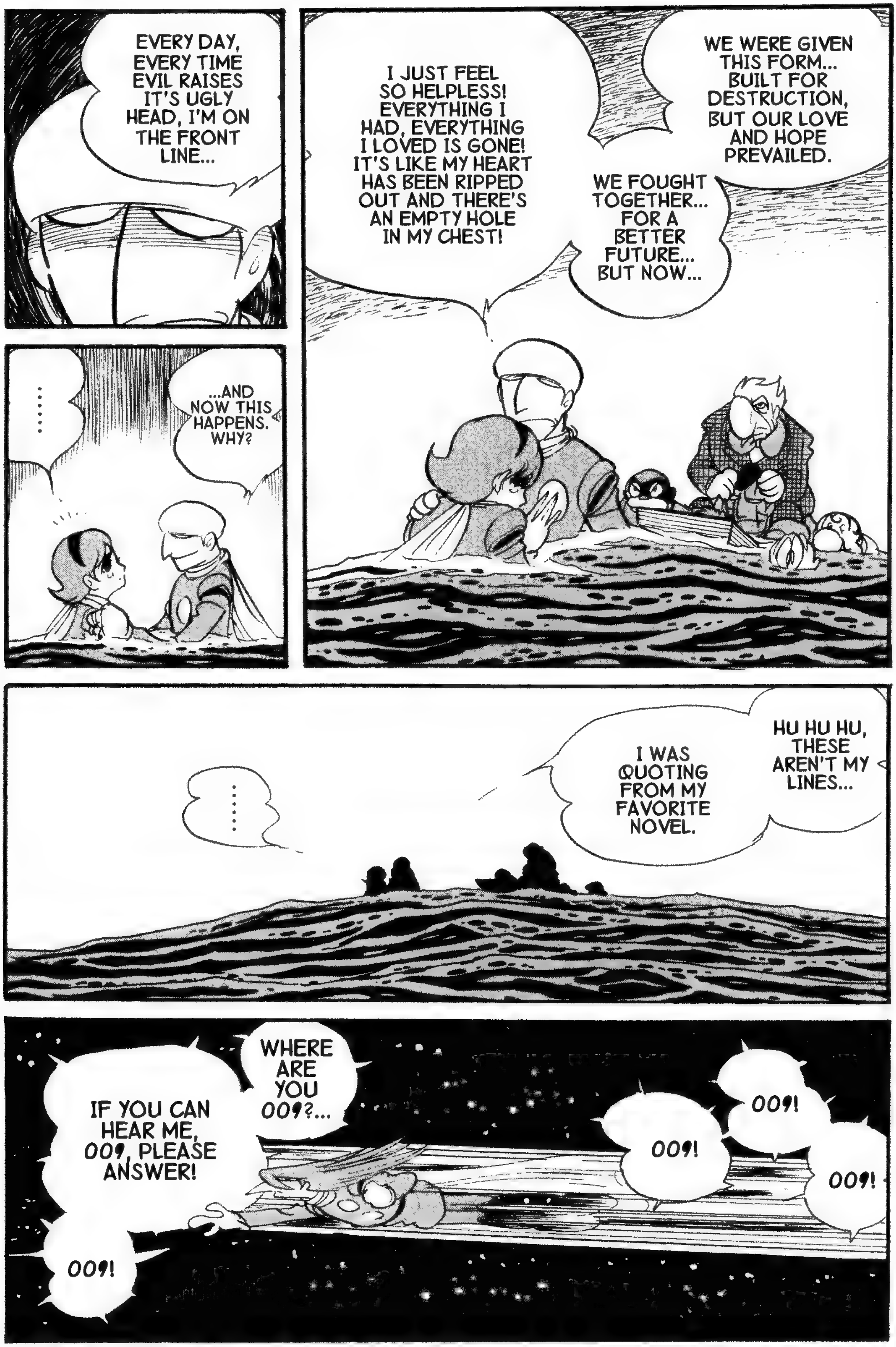

TRY AS YOU MIGHT, YOU'LL NEVER KILL US.
YOUR EFFORTS ARE FUTILE.
WHAT?
I CAN TELL YOU THREE GOOD REASONS YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR THEM?
...
FIRST, YOUR WEAPON COULD NEVER PENETRATE OUR PROTECTIVE CASINGS.
GO AHEAD. TRY. GIVE IT A SHOT.
MMM...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOUR BLASTER WON'T FIRE? BWAH HAH HAH!
SECONDLY, EVEN IF YOU WERE ABLE TO GET TO US...
...YOU'D NEVER SEE THE END OF BLACK GHOST. IT DOESN'T END HERE, YOU SEE.
WHA...?
BLACK GHOST AND I ARE BYPRODUCTS OF BIO-CELL TECHNOLOGY...
...MEANING THAT THERE COULD BE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF CLONES JUST LIKE US!

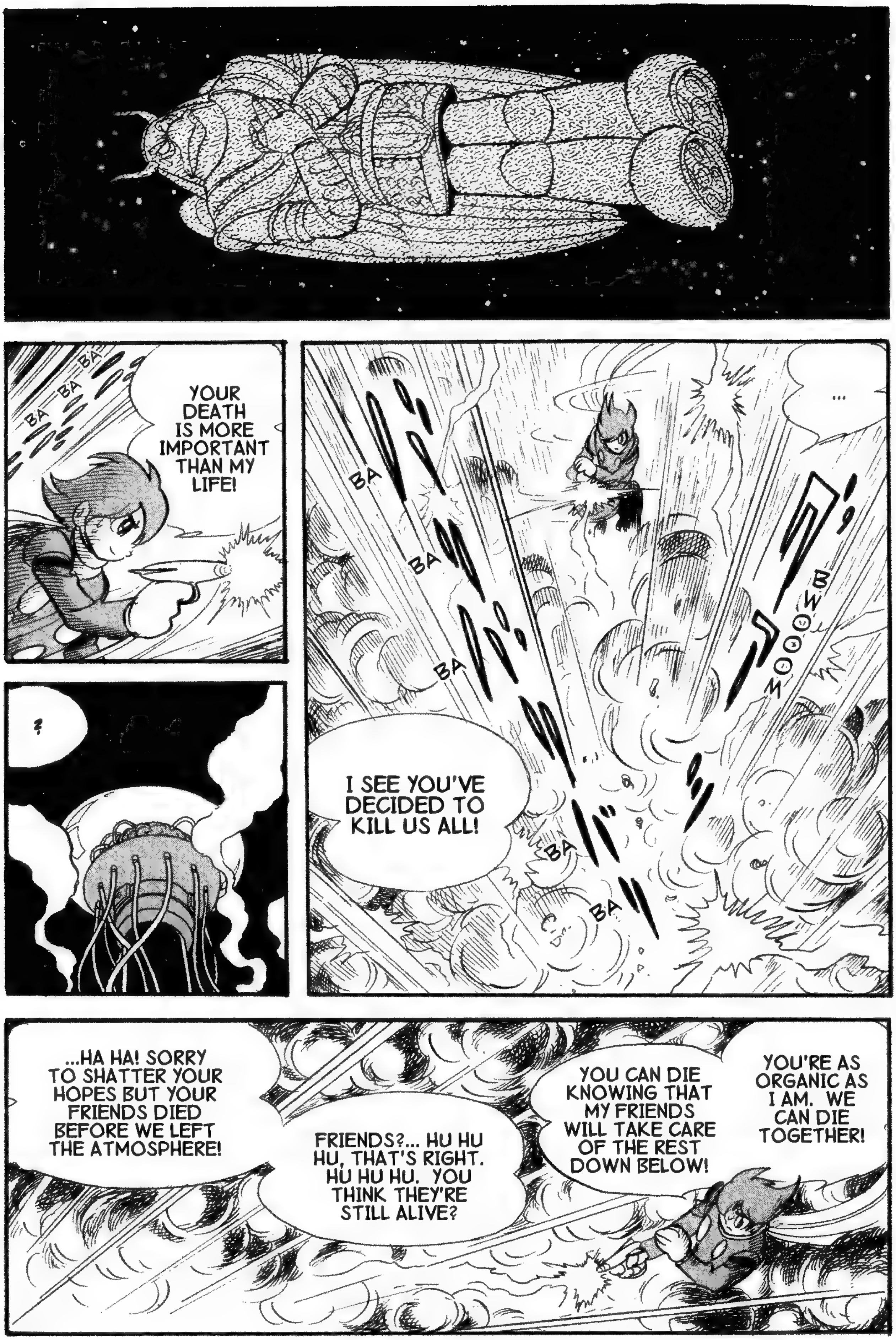

IMPETUOUS FOOL! IF YOU DESTROY US, YOU TOO SHALL PERISH.
YOU'RE ONLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT ME TO DESTROY YOU!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
N-NO... THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I ONLY TOLD YOU BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW HELPLESS YOU TRULY ARE.
AND IF YOU HAVE ANY DOUBTS, JUST THINK FOR A MINUTE... WHAT DO I HAVE TO GAIN BY LYING TO YOU AT THIS POINT?
DAMN...
AH, TO HELL WITH IT!
ZZZZZZZZT
BZZZZ
WHAT?
AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC BARRIER?
HU HU HU, THAT'S RIGHT! OUR SPECIAL MODE OF LAST DEFENSE.
HU HU HU. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND...

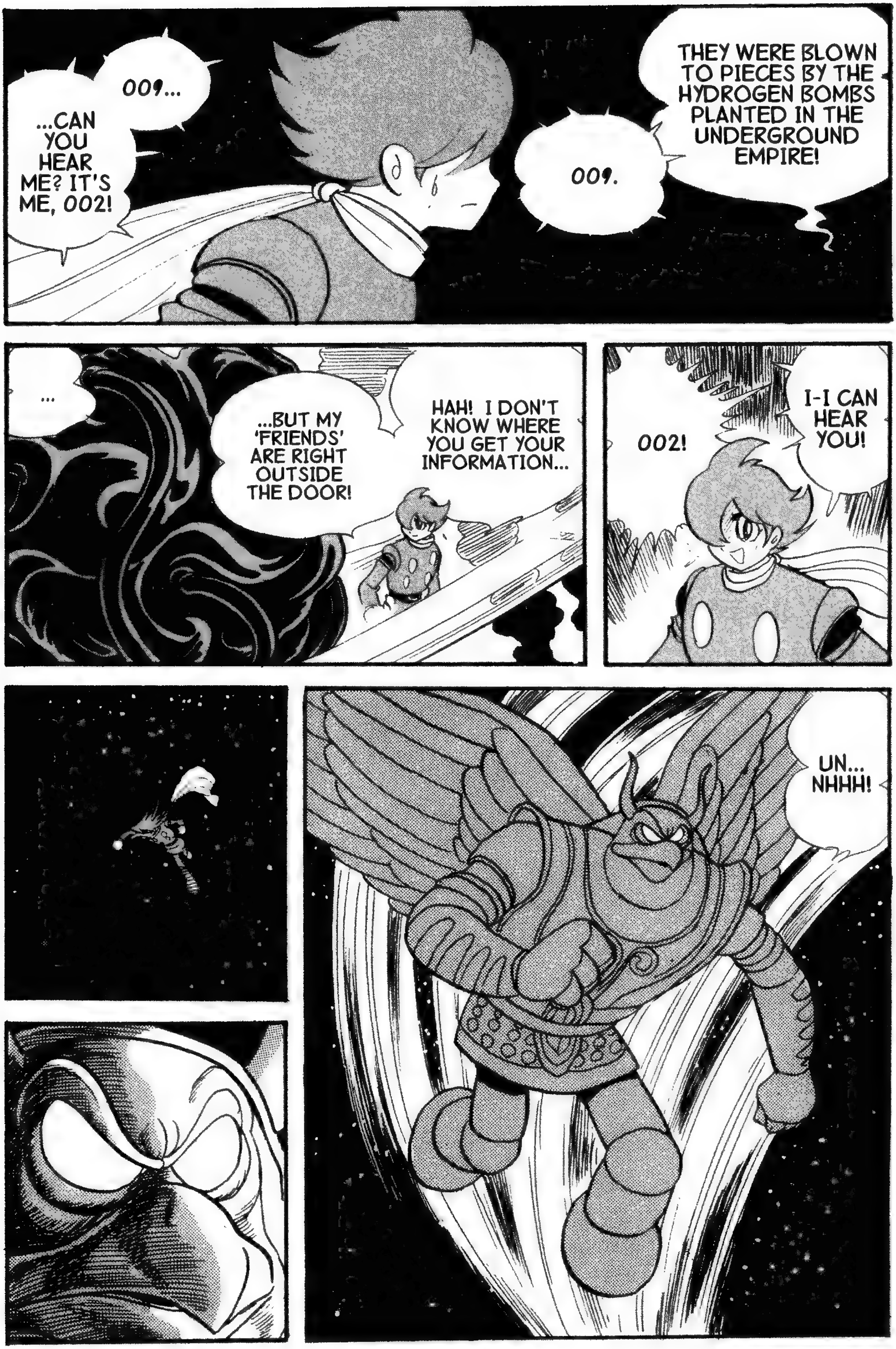

YOU CANNOT DESTROY ME...
FOR YEARS, YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS HAVE FOUGHT A HOPELESS BATTLE AGAINST US.
......
OH NO! I HOPE THIS GRIM REALIZATION ISN'T GETTING YOU DOWN.
GETTING ME DOWN?
HARDLY!
THE MORE YOU SAY, THE ANGRIER I GET! THE MORE DETERMINED I BECOME TO TAKE YOU DOWN!
I'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU!
HMM, I SEE.
DO YOU PLAN ON DESTROYING THIS DEMON GOD STATUE?
I'LL DO WHAT-EVER IT TAKES!
ALL THE PROTECTIVE SHIELDING IN THE GALAXY WON'T SAVE YOU!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE'LL SHARE THE SAME FATE.
YOU SAY THAT YOU'LL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF US...
BWAH HAH HAH! THAT'S GOING TO BE PRETTY HARD TO DO, KNOWING THAT WE'RE GOING TO DIE UP HERE...
...AND BLACK GHOST STILL HAS A VAST ARMY OF HUMANS ON THE SURFACE BELOW! THAT, MY SON, IS THE THIRD AND FINAL REASON YOU'LL NEVER STOP US!! HAH HAH HAH!!

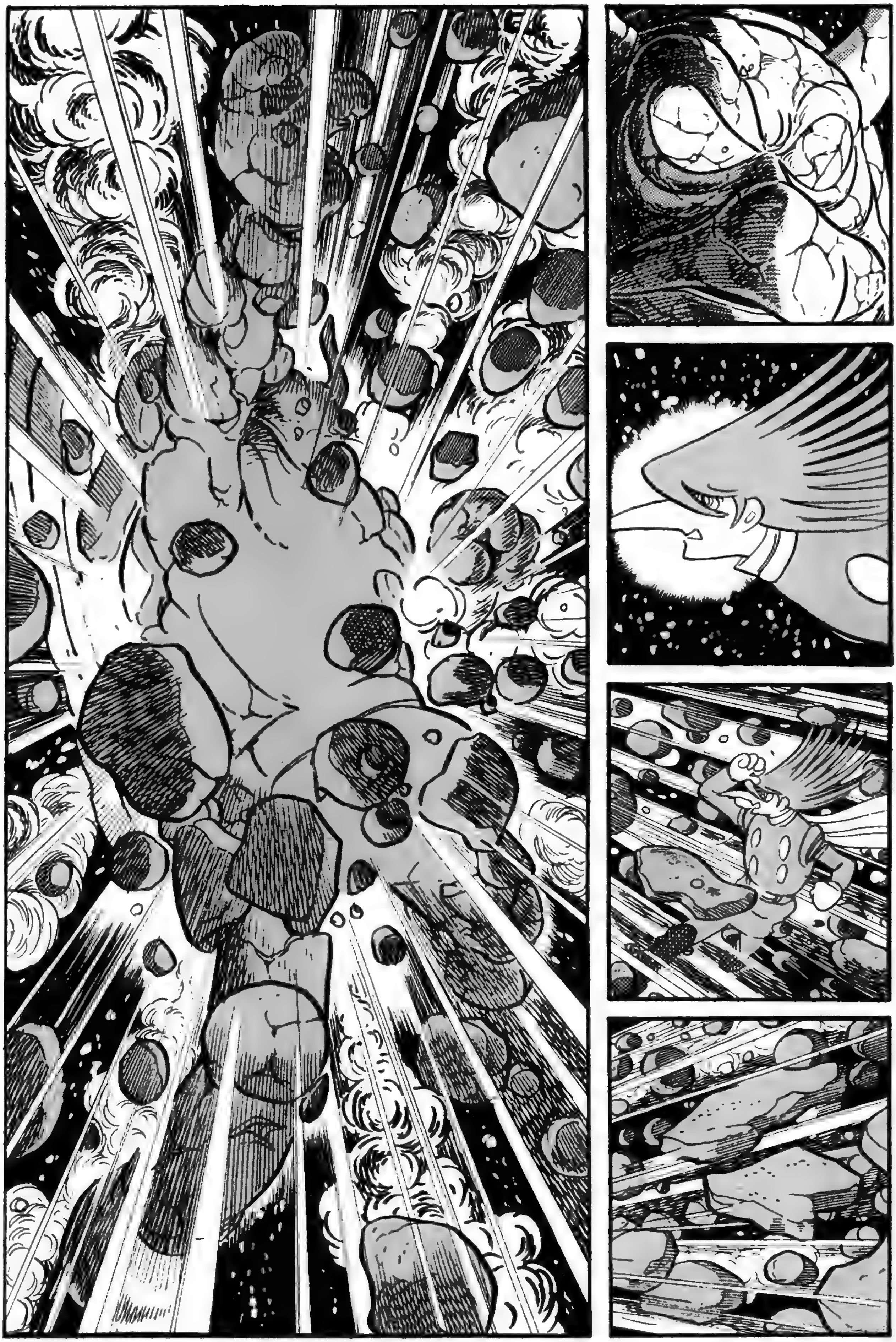

YOU SEE, BLACK GHOST AND THE KIND OF EVIL IT FEEDS FROM WAS BORN OF THE HUMAN HEART!
THAT SAME EVIL FED BLACK GHOST UNTIL IT BECAME THE VAST ORGANIZATION IT IS TODAY.
......
SO, YES, 009, YOU HAVE US CORNERED. THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE THIS TIME. NO WAY OUT, EVEN FOR YOU!
YOU CAN'T JUST BLOW UP THE VESSEL AND JUMP AWAY TO SAFETY THIS TIME...
...BECAUSE WE'RE IN OUTER SPACE!
わはははは
WAH HA HA HA
HUH?

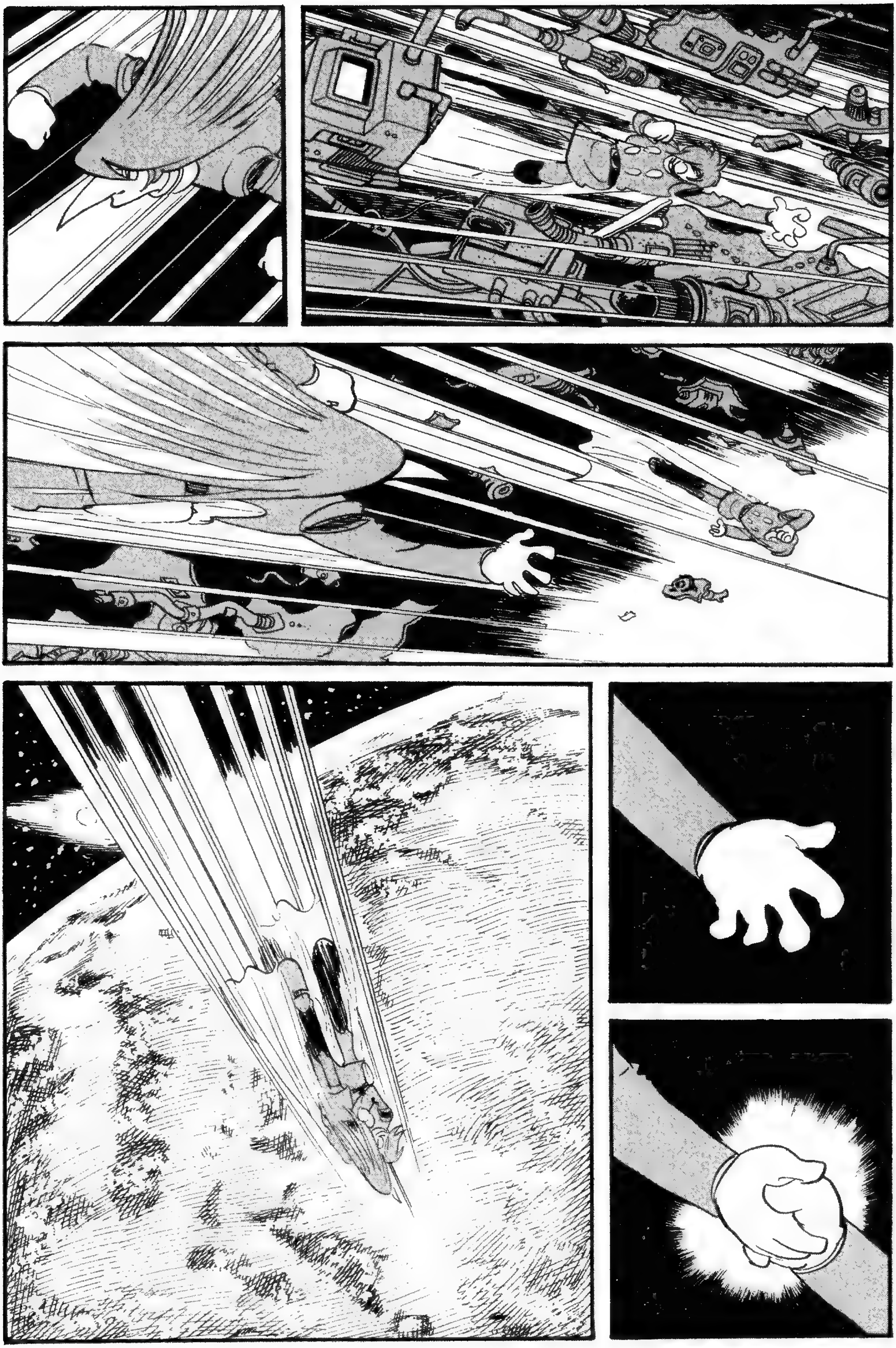

003...
...DID YOU LOVE 009?
...OF COURSE!...
...YOU GUYS... LOVED HIM TOO, RIGHT?
......
UUH, 004!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
I... I ALWAYS SUS-PECTED...

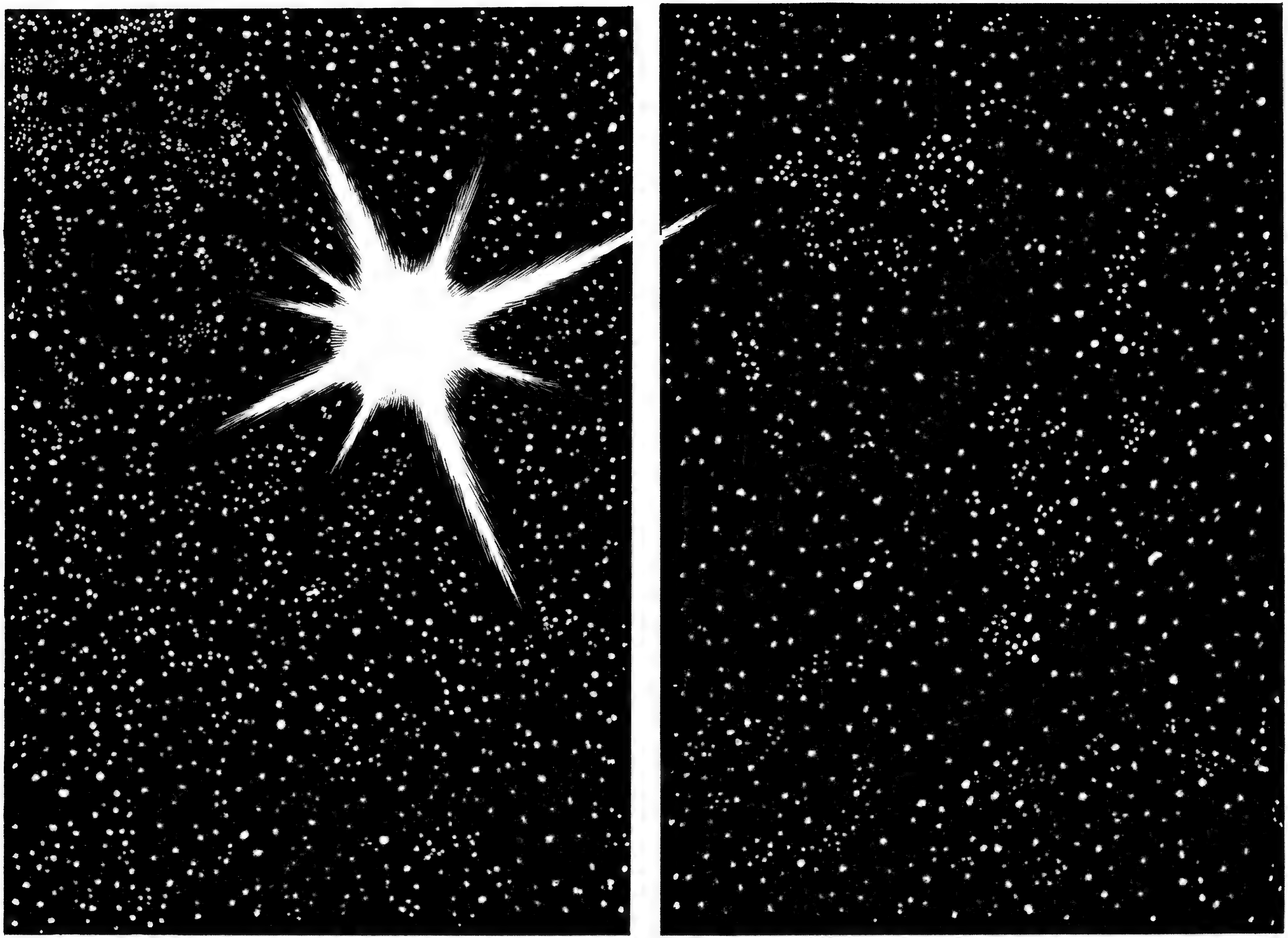

WE WERE GIVEN THIS FORM... BUILT FOR DESTRUCTION, BUT OUR LOVE AND HOPE PREVAILED.
WE FOUGHT TOGETHER... FOR A BETTER FUTURE... BUT NOW...
I JUST FEEL SO HELPLESS! EVERYTHING I HAD, EVERYTHING I LOVED IS GONE! IT'S LIKE MY HEART HAS BEEN RIPPED OUT AND THERE'S AN EMPTY HOLE IN MY CHEST!
EVERY DAY, EVERY TIME EVIL RAISES IT'S UGLY HEAD, I'M ON THE FRONT LINE...
...AND NOW THIS HAPPENS. WHY?
......
HU HU HU, THESE AREN'T MY LINES...
I WAS QUOTING FROM MY FAVORITE NOVEL.
......
009!
009!
009!
WHERE ARE YOU 009?...
IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, 009, PLEASE ANSWER!
009!

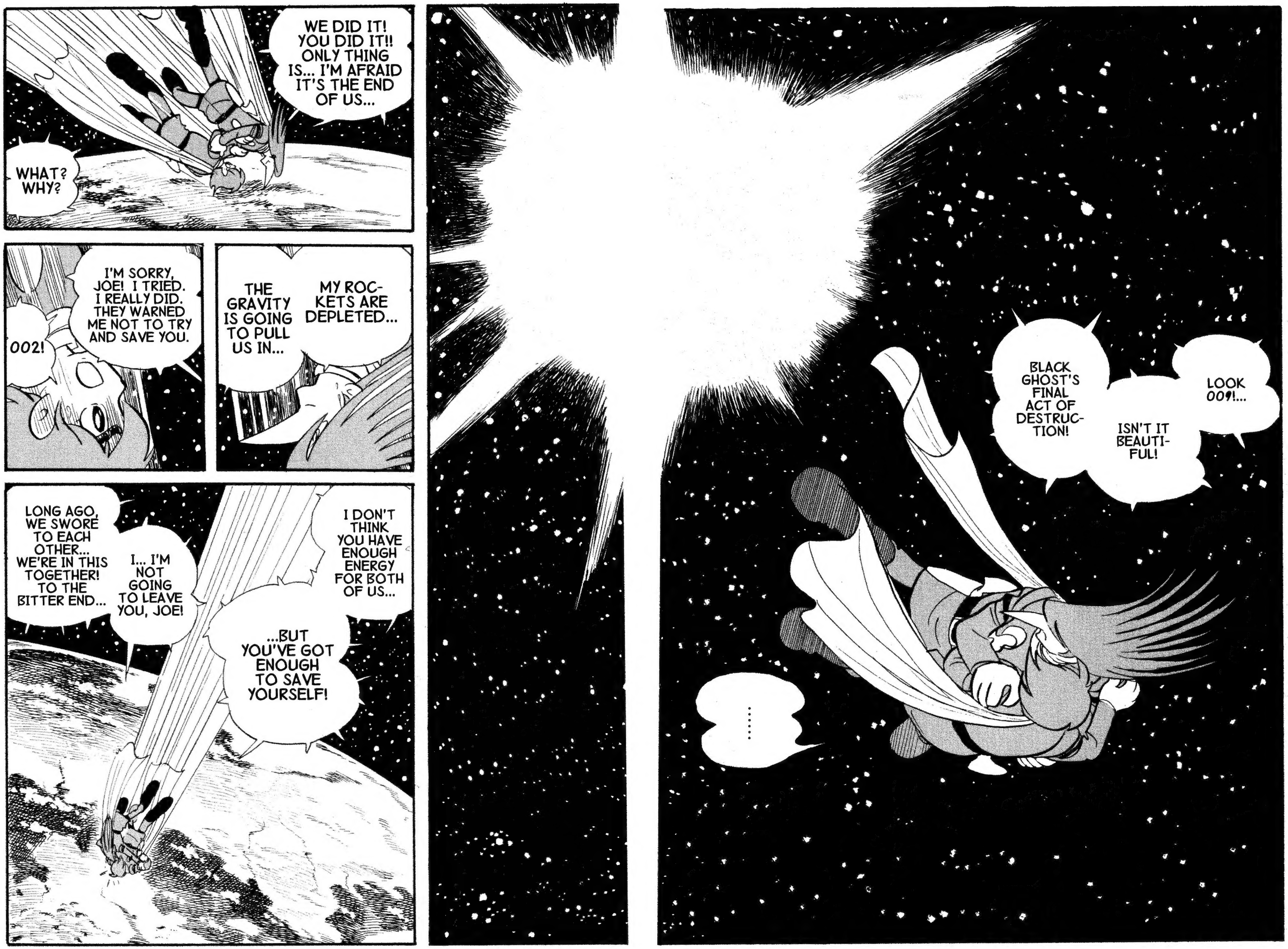

BA BA BA BA
YOUR DEATH IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY LIFE!
?
...
BA
BA
BA
BWOOOM
I SEE YOU'VE DECIDED TO KILL US ALL!
BA
BA
...HA HA! SORRY TO SHATTER YOUR HOPES BUT YOUR FRIENDS DIED BEFORE WE LEFT THE ATMOSPHERE!
FRIENDS?... HU HU HU, THAT'S RIGHT. HU HU HU. YOU THINK THEY'RE STILL ALIVE?
YOU CAN DIE KNOWING THAT MY FRIENDS WILL TAKE CARE OF THE REST DOWN BELOW!
YOU'RE AS ORGANIC AS I AM. WE CAN DIE TOGETHER!

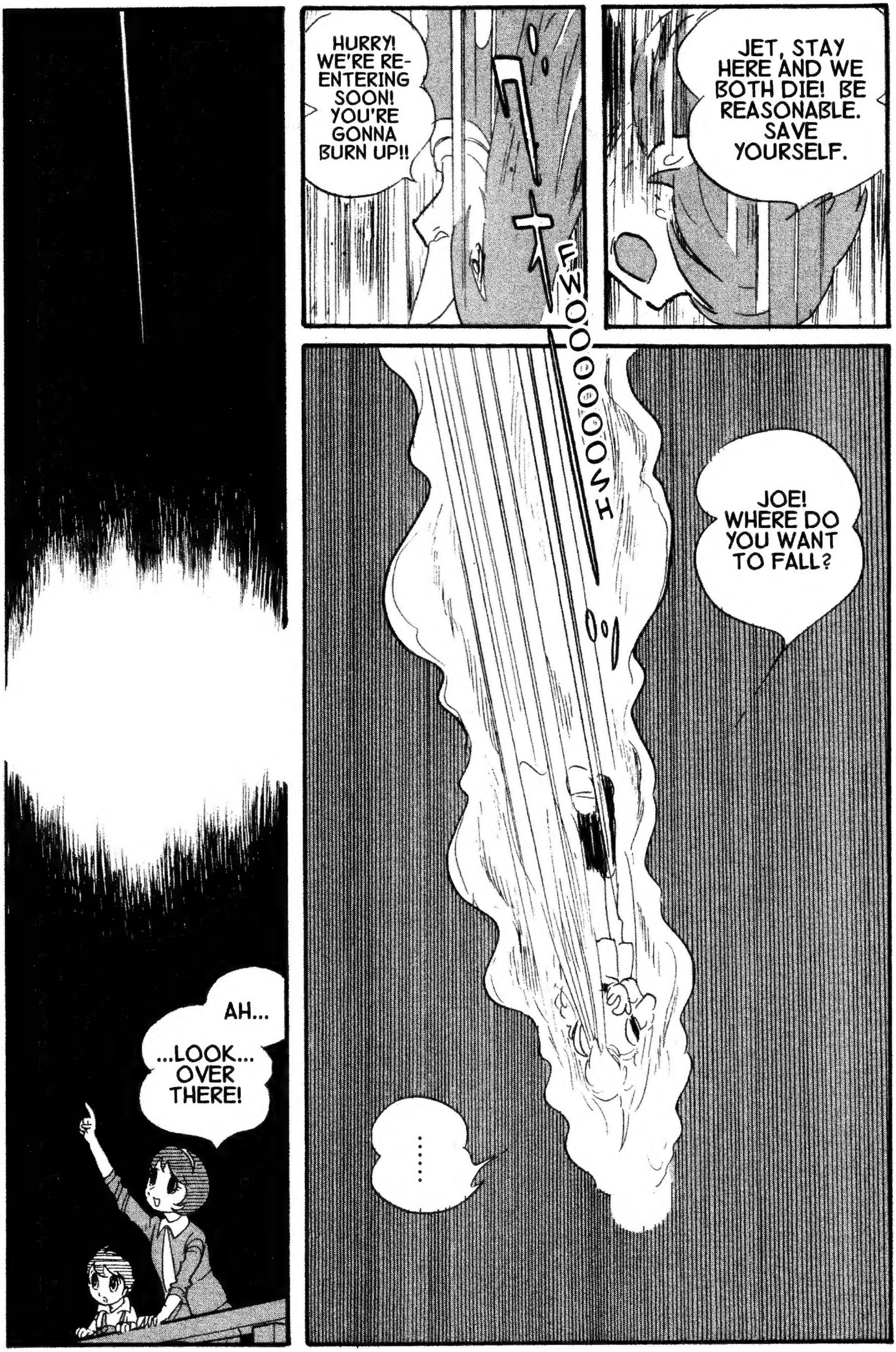

009...
...CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ME, 002!
009.
THEY WERE BLOWN TO PIECES BY THE HYDROGEN BOMBS PLANTED IN THE UNDERGROUND EMPIRE!
...
HAH! I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION...
...BUT MY 'FRIENDS' ARE RIGHT OUTSIDE THE DOOR!
002!
I-I CAN HEAR YOU!
UN... NHHH!

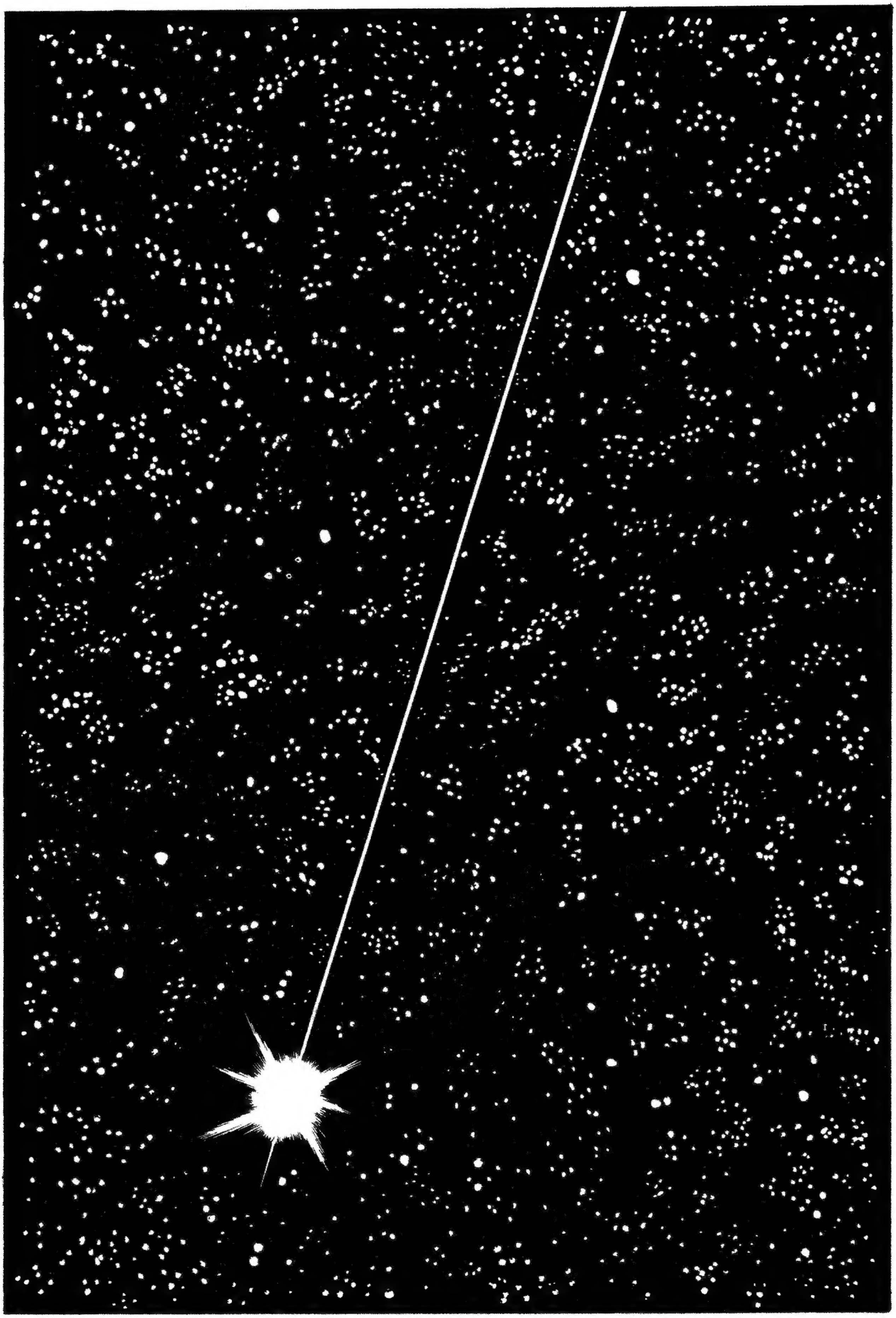


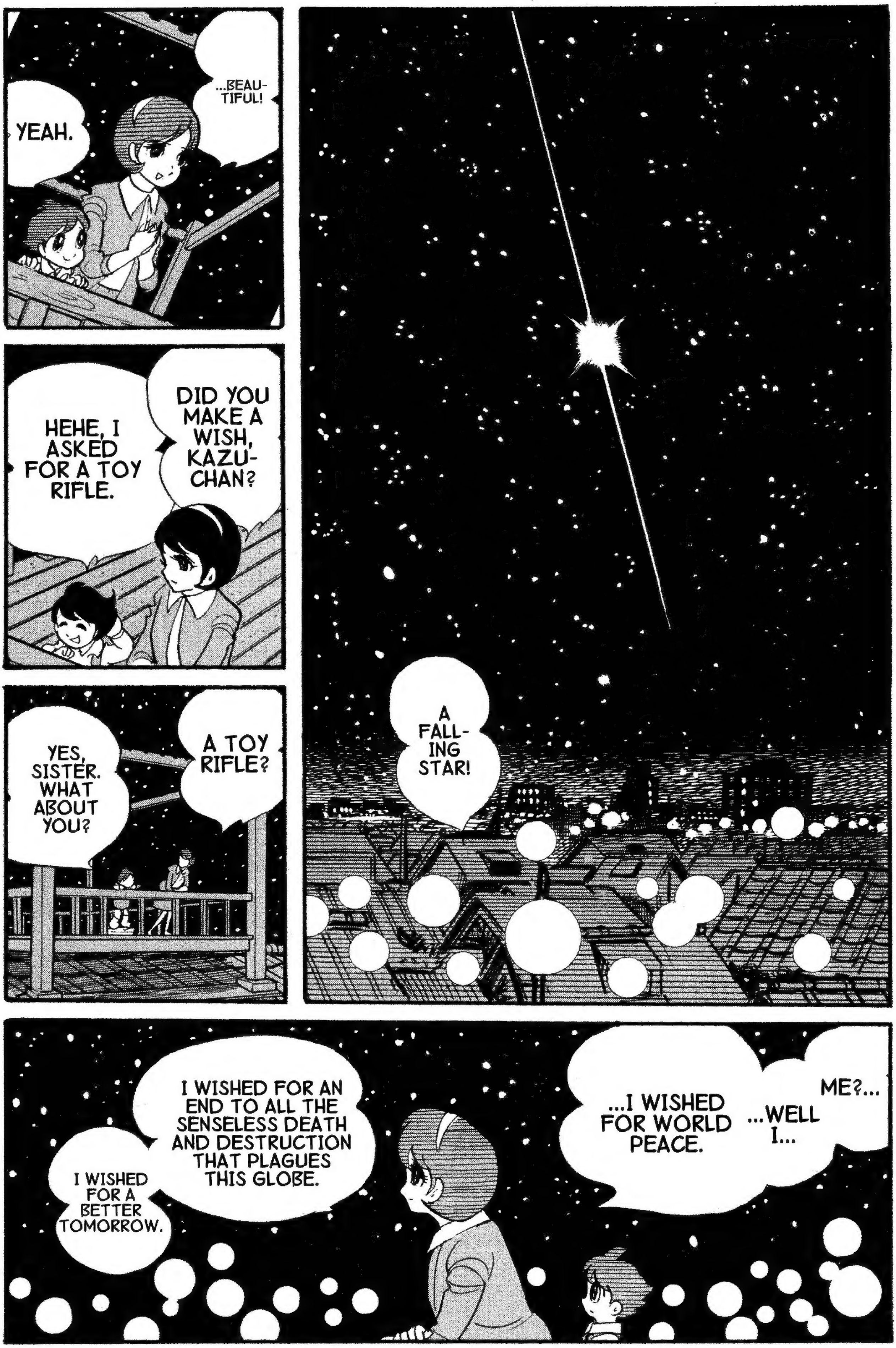





WE DID IT! YOU DID IT!! ONLY THING IS... I'M AFRAID IT'S THE END OF US...
WHAT? WHY?
I'M SORRY, JOE! I TRIED. I REALLY DID. THEY WARNED ME NOT TO TRY AND SAVE YOU.
002!
MY ROCKETS ARE DEPLETED...
THE GRAVITY IS GOING TO PULL US IN...
I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY FOR BOTH OF US...
...BUT YOU'VE GOT ENOUGH TO SAVE YOURSELF!
I... I'M NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU, JOE!
LONG AGO, WE SWORE TO EACH OTHER... WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER! TO THE BITTER END...
LOOK 009!...
ISN'T IT BEAUTIFUL!
BLACK GHOST'S FINAL ACT OF DESTRUCTION!
......


JET, STAY HERE AND WE BOTH DIE! BE REASONABLE. SAVE YOURSELF.
HURRY! WE'RE RE-ENTERING SOON! YOU'RE GONNA BURN UP!!
FWOOOOOOSH
JOE! WHERE DO YOU WANT TO FALL?
......
AH...
...LOOK... OVER THERE!




A FALLING STAR!
...BEAUTIFUL!
YEAH.
DID YOU MAKE A WISH, KAZU-CHAN?
HEHE, I ASKED FOR A TOY RIFLE.
A TOY RIFLE?
YES, SISTER. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ME?...
...WELL I...
...I WISHED FOR WORLD PEACE.
I WISHED FOR AN END TO ALL THE SENSELESS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION THAT PLAGUES THIS GLOBE.
I WISHED FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.